

THE NOE VALLEY VOICE

Seniors Take Back The Night—And the Day

By Kathy Dalle-Molle

As 65-year-old Frances Brett walked from her home on Jersey Street to a Christmas luncheon at the Noe Valley Ministry at Sanchez and 23rd, her hands were occupied with holding a large platter of food, so she carried her purse around her neck and shoulder. She wasn't aware of the man approaching behind her until it was too late.

The mugger used a knife to cut the shoulder strap of her purse, grabbed the handbag, and ran to a waiting car. Brett's purse, containing her house keys, driver's license, and the cash and credit cards she planned to use for Christmas shopping that afternoon, were never recovered.

"The man could have easily stabbed me," says Brett, who now wears a waist-pack in lieu of carrying a purse. "I'm a lot more observant these days."

One afternoon not long ago, Dan Trickey, 68, arrived at his 25th Street apartment to find a stranger in his bedroom. Trickey's camera, coin collection, binoculars, and several other possessions lay on top of his bed. The intruder, startled by Trickey's arrival, pulled out a knife, but then ran from the building, leaving Trickey's valuables behind.

Trickey later found that the burglar had entered his apartment through an open rear window. "I thought it would be safe [to leave the window open] because there's a tall fence that hides it from sight," he recalls. "As soon as this incident happened, though, I got bars put on all of my windows."

Even though crime statistics for Noe Valley are in sharp contrast to figures in downtown neighborhoods like the Tenderloin and Western Addition ("Noe Valley on the whole is a low crime area," says Mission Community Police Officer Lois Perillo), older adults, like Brett and Trickey, are especially vulnerable to certain crimes, such as muggings and break-ins.

"Seniors should not be lulled into a



Even in the more bucolic parts of Noe Valley, like this block of 21st Street, seniors are vulnerable to purse-snatchings and other assaults—usually because criminals see them as easy marks. But the members of three local senior centers are fast learning the kind of self-defense tactics that will increase, not restrict their freedom. PHOTO BY PAMELA GERARD.

complacent attitude by thinking that Noe Valley is safer than most neighborhoods in San Francisco," warns Suzanne Gautier, a crime prevention specialist for San Francisco SAFE (Safety Awareness For Everyone). "Older adults should live with a safe attitude and behave consistently no matter what neighborhood they're in. Safety tactics should become part of their regular routine."

It's true that younger people are victims of violent crime more often than

those over the age of 65. However, according to studies compiled by the American Association of Retired People (AARP), a national advocacy group, seniors are more likely to be victimized at or near their homes, and by offenders who are strangers and who are carrying a weapon. Significantly, older people also have a greater chance of being injured in the assault.

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Toot Your Horn if You're Perturbed About Traffic

By Denise Minor

Irritated by double-parking on 24th Street? Wondering how to get residential parking permits on your block? Think that a four-way stop is needed at your corner?

Then add your gripes and ideas to a Noe Valley traffic and parking master plan that the city is drawing up in conjunction with the Friends of Noe Valley and other area residents.

"We're trying to get all the people concerned together and make a big master list of proposals for change," said John Stalp, who chairs the Friends' planning committee.

Tim Johnson, bureau chief of San Francisco's Parking and Traffic Department, told the Friends at their May meeting that his office would begin working in November on comprehensive plans for a few city neighborhoods, including Noe Valley.

"The traffic in this neighborhood has vastly changed since the closure of I-280," said Johnson. "We want to work with the neighborhood as we try to deal with it, because we know that we can't take an action in one place without a reaction occurring somewhere else."

Since the city will not begin its investigation until November, the Friends hope to get a jump on parking and traffic conditions in Noe Valley and come up with their own blueprint beforehand.

"Even though a government bureaucracy says it's going to help you, you often end up fighting tooth and nail to get what you want," Stalp said. "If we're organized, and we get the maximum response possible from the neighborhood, we have a better chance of getting something done that will benefit the neighborhood."

The residents' group has already compiled a partial list of issues to consider: residential parking permits; the prohibition of left turns onto 24th Street from Dolores Street; proposed load limits for some streets; stop signs at intersections such as 25th and Douglass and 24th and Fountain streets; the possibility of diagonal parking on certain wide streets; better enforcement of the double-parking law; reducing motorists' speed on Clipper Street; expansion or reduction of the number of one-way streets; and five-minute parking zones in front of bank ATMs.

A number of those attending the meeting, held May 14 at the Noe Valley Library, took advantage of having the man in charge of parking enforcement in front of them, and let off a little steam.

"I have a pet peeve," said one resident. "And that is when a parking control officer tickets in a way that is not beneficial to anyone, for instance, on a car barely extending over a line, when there are trucks double-parking on 24th Street."

Johnson sympathized. "That's like ticketing a car without its wheels curbed, which is on a slope that is technically more than a three percent grade, but which is not going to roll away." But he

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A Farewell Bouquet for Ben Smith

By Helen Garvey

Our neighbor, Ben Smith, died in April of a massive heart attack. There was no obituary in any of the papers, but there should have been. Ben was a resident of San Francisco for over 50 years and a unique individual.

He would have been 90 in September. Born in Canada and raised in New York, Ben came to San Francisco in 1937 as an engineer to help design the Golden Gate Bridge.

His wife, Alma, died 25 or 30 years ago, and he had been alone ever since. I met him in my yard shortly after we moved in, when he found me carelessly spraying my garden with a strong pesticide. I got my first (but not my last) lecture on the environment. That was 19

years ago.

Ben actually taught me more about gardening than I have learned from all other sources combined. He virtually lived out of his own garden. He grew beans and peas and blackberries and squash—and many things that most people would not consider edible, but which he swore by—and some things just because they were pretty and Alma had loved them: lilacs, wisteria, pom-poms, honeysuckle, Johnny-jump-ups.

After Alma died, Ben allowed his 100-year-old house to deteriorate; today, windows are broken, curtains hang in tatters, and the entire structure has been condemned. Most people believe this constitutes criminal neglect, since the house started out as a truly elegant and grand Victorian, and was once a landmark to

ships in the bay. People stop daily to stare at this once-lovely home at 23rd and Eureka streets, wondering what kind of person would live there.

There are plenty of people who will be happy to tell you about Ben's faults. To many, he was no more than a cranky, crotchety, bigoted, antisocial hermit. He was all those things, it's true. But he had another side, and I count myself very lucky to have seen it. Some of my better memories of Ben are these:

One day, after we had been neighbors for nine or 10 years, and had spent untold hours side by side in the garden, Ben talked about his wife to me. Late in life, Alma had borne him a child who died at birth.

Friends Give City's Traffic Plan a Push

Continued from Page 1

could not offer a remedy for victims of rule sticklers, he said.

Another resident asked Johnson to remove the sign on Army Street that directs through-traffic to use Clipper Street. Many motorists speed down his block of Clipper, he said, and the street is taking a pounding.

"Clipper Street is getting heavy traffic it was never meant for," he continued. "Our foundation is crumbling. There may be 100-year-old sewer lines beneath the street. Who knows what kind of impact all the cars are having?"

Johnson said he might not be able to remove the sign, but that in the new master plan the city could propose ways of rerouting some of the traffic. After the meeting, some members volunteered to help conduct a traffic count on Clipper.

One resident complained that a Noe Valley auto body shop was taking up parking spaces on Elizabeth Street by using the street as an extension of its garage. She wondered whether neighborhood parking permits would put an end to that. "Is it true that there is a moratorium on residential permit parking?" she asked.

"There was a moratorium for a while," said Johnson. "But not now."

Another person complained about buses that instead of using the bus stop, halt for passengers in the middle of the street, holding up traffic and making it difficult for elderly and handicapped riders to board.

"We don't ticket them," replied Johnson. "It's a Muni issue."

A Sanchez Street resident suggested that one way to create additional parking in the neighborhood would be to install diagonal parking on Noe and Sanchez streets between 24th and either Jersey or Elizabeth streets.

Johnson said he was not sure whether those streets were wide enough, but he promised to look into the option when drawing up the master plan.

He went on to suggest an even easier way to free up some parking spaces: turn in abandoned cars by phoning 781-JUNK. "It's also a way for us to recover stolen cars," he said.

Those interested in working on the Friends' plan, or in adding their pet peeve to the list, should give Les Cowan a call at 641-6033. □

LETTERS 29¢

A Clean Bill of Health For St. Luke's Hospital

Editor:

I was very much interested in Dr. John Pierce's "Bylines" piece ("St. Luke's Is Suffering from a Misdiagnosis") in the February issue. Since 1948, I have been a patient at St. Luke's Hospital many times, because the doctors taking care of me—for operations, Caesarean sections, and other medical problems—were on the staff at St. Luke's. My husband, along with my children, have also been treated there.

During that time, I have never had a bad word about any services received there, either following emergencies, or through admittance or operations. The staff has always given me all the attention and kindness one could ask for.

I would hate to see St. Luke's leave Noe Valley. I was born and reared on Twin Peaks, and it has always been the closest hospital to rush to. I hope this letter will help keep St. Luke's going for a long, long time.

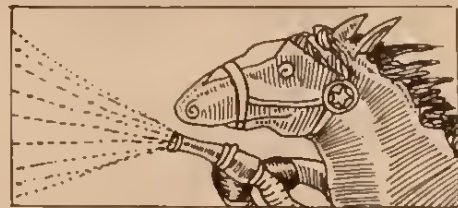
Rose Redmond
Duncan Street

Firehouse History Less Fuzzy

Editor:

The article about the Hoffman Avenue firehouse, in the April issue of the *Voice*, quotes a Station 24 firefighter as saying, "This station is the oldest active firehouse in San Francisco. Four horses were used here until the early 1920s to pull the engine through the streets." This last statement is incorrect.

I, Walter McGrew, was born on Sept. 24, 1906, at 911 Alvarado St., and my parents' property adjoined the firehouse property at 100 Hoffman Ave. I saw the firehouse being built in 1913 and put into



service in 1914, with a motorized hose truck and a motorized steam-pumping apparatus. There never were horse-drawn vehicles in this building. The horse-drawn vehicles, which had been situated on the east side of Douglass Street between 21st and Romaine, were abandoned after the Hoffman firehouse was built. (The city may still own this lot.)

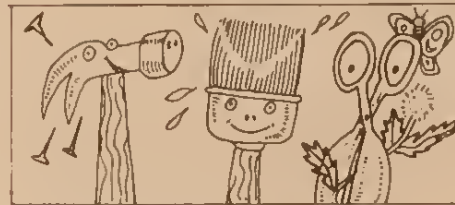
When the new firehouse was constructed, a bungalow that had been located on the site was moved to 116 Hoffman Ave.

No. 24 Engine Company was steam-heated by a steam boiler situated below the sidewalk on Alvarado Street. Originally, the station's red brick floor extended all the way to the rear wall of the building, and it was for this reason that all the firemen suffered from rheumatism in those days. To overcome this condition, a wooden floor and a glass and wooden partition were built (to make a heated room for the firemen).

There were two other firehouses built at the same time, identical to No. 24. They also replaced horse-drawn equipment. They were located at 18th and Wisconsin streets and at Wilde and San Bruno avenues, and as far as I know, they are still operating today.

I sold the 911 Alvarado St. property in 1964, and the house—a four-room bungalow built by my parents in 1897—was then torn down and replaced by a two-story structure.

Walter E. McGrew
Twenty-fourth Avenue



Noe Valley Ministry Thanks You For Your Support

Editor:

We would like to report on the progress of the Noe Valley Ministry Community Building Fund for the church at 1021 Sanchez St. We are very pleased that ever since the B.J. Droubi Real Estate firm sent out a newsletter highlighting the fund, we have received a steady stream of checks from Noe Valley neighbors. Thanks to all those who are responding.

We also want to thank Lori Carstens, owner of Cruise Holidays at 1297 Church St., who will contribute a percentage of proceeds from holiday cruises the travel agency sells to people who mention the building fund.

Currently, the Noe Valley Ministry Community Building Fund is seeking a professional fundraiser to coordinate this capital fund drive. In addition, we are planning a direct mail campaign, a few local fundraising events for next fall, and a large fundraising concert at the Masonic Auditorium for fall 1993 or spring 1994.

We are grateful to so many people of the Noe Valley community who give us encouragement and assistance. Shalom!

Carl A. Smith, Pastor
Noe Valley Ministry



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"Choice" Schools a Poor Choice

Editor:

I am a retired teacher and have followed the arguments for and against the so-called "choice" schools [whereby parents would receive vouchers to send their kids to private schools.] I fear that "choice" is a ruse and a misnomer. It sounds good, but my experience and the recent history of deregulation in other industries (which, in fact, is what would take place) tell me that we would end up with misery and mayhem.

Parents seldom agree on how to run a school, and I think we would see parents in front of schools yelling at each other, much as "pro" and "con" abortion rights people are doing now.

I have friends who teach school in British Columbia, Canada. They have told me that Canada has a strong teachers' union. When the issue of "choice" came up many years ago, they flatly voted it down and that ended it.

In a recent international survey, Can-

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Crowd Says 'Whoopee' At Sister Act Screening

By Jeff Kaliss

Sister Act, the Disney film shot at St. Paul's Cathedral on Church Street last fall, opened at the Royal Theater May 29. And if the response of the crowd at a mid-May press preview is any indication, the movie should sell a lot of tickets this summer—at least in the San Francisco neighborhood it's now made famous.

The capacity audience at the preview, which included a healthy sampling of Noe Valleons, laughed and clapped generously, starting right with the opening scene. It featured a little black girl, misbehaving in a parochial school in the '60s. In the next few frames, we see that the little girl has grown up to become Deloris, a hotel club singer in present-day Reno, played by Whoopi Goldberg.

The scenes of Deloris' Motown cover group are cute and corny, as is much of the movie. But the plot soon thickens as Deloris witnesses a murder upstairs in the hotel, committed by her mobster boyfriend Vince LaRocca, played by Harvey Keitel.

The ensuing shots of Deloris being chased by Vince's henchmen, to the tune of a fusion soundtrack, are full of high-speed slapstick humor. But what really

got the test crowd revved up was an aerial view of the San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge. And the audience went bananas ("Look! I can see my house!") when the camera zoomed in on the steeples of St. Paul's (renamed St. Katherine's Convent) at the corner of 29th and Church (renamed East Church for the movie).

How Deloris becomes Sister Mary Clarence, and what happens to her afterwards, is something you should discover for yourself. But if you were reading the *Voice* during the film's shooting last October, you already know that the masquerading nun helps transform Noe Valley from a slum (which it's never been) cursed with graffiti (as it occasionally has been) to a model community (as we hope it will be someday).

The changes wrought by this unexpected intrusion of the outside world upon a rigid cloistered life are the best plot elements in *Sister Act*, and also the best opportunities for polished acting.

British actress Maggie Smith is completely convincing as the imperious Mother Superior, Deloris' biggest opponent other than her murderous ex-boyfriend, who's hunting for her. As the leader of the convent, Mother Superior is the only person on the premises other than Bishop



In Disney's *Sister Act*, Whoopi Goldberg, playing a lounge singer hiding in nun's habit, finds ample opportunity to test the acoustics of St. Paul's Cathedral. PHOTO BY SUZANNE HANOVER.

O'Hara (played with endearing humanitarian authority by Joseph Maher), who knows that Sister Mary Clarence is not just another nun.

In her early days as a novice, Deloris struggles to overcome her funky language and habits, which include stealing from a vegetable garden erected by the Disney crew on the grounds of St. Paul's.

Later, as Sister Mary Clarence, she brings her skill as a singer and showgirl to bear on the convent's choir, winning over every heart including the reluctant Mother Superior. In the process, she reworks the Motown classic "My Guy" into "My God."

Actress Kathy Najimy brings some of her bits from the "Kathy and Mo Show" (which had a critically acclaimed San Francisco run at Theatre on the Square last year) to her portrayal of Sister Mary Patrick, an irrepressibly good-natured force for fun in the convent. Wendy Makkena is also affecting as youthful Sister Mary Robert, who learns to triumph over her shyness, and familiar character actress Mary Wickes is hilarious as the feisty veteran Sister Mary Lazarus. You gotta like these "gals," especially if you were brought up Catholic.

In the spirit of the late Fred Methner (Noe Valley's anti-graffiti crusader), the nuns launch a full-scale cleanup project and endeavor to stamp out the neighborhood blight, represented in the film by Church Street's disguised storefronts.

Noe Valley also stars as the backdrop for an elaborate car chase—good for building tension in a film but, thank God (or Guy), rarely seen around here in real life. Another piece of fiction is the frequent appearance of the J-line streetcars on "East Church."

St. Paul's looks truly handsome on the big screen, and it's easy to see why Hollywood chose the site. In those scenes where the church pews are filled (after Sister Mary Clarence re-tunes the choir), there are many glimpses of Noe Valley folk, though the congregation exhibits a racial balance you won't normally encounter in these parts.

The neighborhood's much-maligned pigeons also show up as extras perched outside the convent windows, but neither birds nor local residents seem to have been listed in the credits.

As in most of her movies (except for her debut in *The Color Purple*), Whoopi is pretty much just Whoopi, and she appears to be as nice and empathetic on screen as several Noe Valleynans who met her testified she really is.

Like Disneyland itself, this Disney film is appropriate for the entire family, save maybe a jaded uncle who only enjoys artistic statements with subtitles.

Take your friends, buy a bucket of popcorn, and see if you too can pick out your neighbor, your house, your church pew ... or your pet pigeon. And give 'em all a hand. □



During the October filming of *Sister Act*, the "nuns" were hip enough to ferret out the cappuccino in the Noe Valley "ghetto." PHOTO BY BEVERLY THARP.

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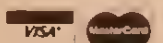
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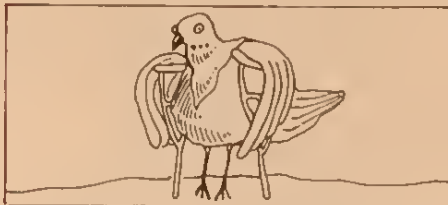
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ada was named first in a list of nations based on the quality of life. Schools are a big factor. Every country in the world with successful schools and high academic standards has a centralized school system in which the state takes responsibility.

"Choice" schools would disperse responsibility, and we would end up like the people of Guadalajara, facing disaster hut with no one to blame.

In the survey, the U.S. came in sixth. We will sink even lower if we permit schools to be run by whim and sometimes by prejudice. All of our children need and deserve first-class schools—not a hodgepodge of experiments.

L.E. Partridge
Guerrero Street



Pigeon Glue Still a Burning Topic

Dear Bud, Kathy, Karol, Susan, and Sally:

Your interview with the pigeons in the April Fool's issue was a delightful piece that sounded the right note.

Championing pigeons is naturally unpopular at this time, and I can appreciate how people feel about them. But I thought you might be interested in a conversation I had with my local hardware store. The store near me on Mission Street doesn't stock "bird glue," but it does have a full line of mouse glue. (If you've ever chanced upon a mouse corpse in a glue trap, as I did the other day, you know it is not a pretty sight. The small creatures starve to death.)

When I asked about the bird glue, I was assured that "it only burns the pigeons' feet." It may not be the glue, but some other product that dismembers their feet, as I mentioned in my letter of March 1992. I've never experienced having to walk about with the soles of my feet severely burned, but I now observe birds with crippled feet having a very difficult time vying for scraps of food—it's a pigeon-eat-pigeon world.

All I can hope is that our little discussion may have softened a few hearts and set some minds to work on a more humane solution to all this mess.

Pauline Blanc
Bosworth Street

How to Discourage Racist Attitudes

Editor:

I have always meant to write and say how much I enjoy the *Noe Valley Voice*. I must pick out Florence Holub's column, about her good old days, as being great fun.

But I am now writing in reference to Julia Thomas' letter regarding a shop on 24th Street whose employees falsely accused her African-American daughter of shoplifting ["A Painful Encounter with Racism on 24th Street," April 1992]. Maybe these people want us to go back to our "good old days"—the days of segregated schools and housing, the days when black people were not allowed in restaurants or theaters—or maybe they are satisfied with the present day, when black people are watched like hawks while other people walk out with merchandise.

Racism has been going on forever, and I'm so afraid it's getting worse. There is nothing to do except do as this mother did: act upon it right away. When I witness something, I either go to the store or sit down and write a letter describing the incident. I also make sure the right person gets it. There is usually a positive result, since most merchants do not like to lose money. Too bad that that store didn't care.

Edith Henderson
Church Street

Mayor Is No Francis of Assisi

Editor:

Frank Jordan's "policy" on homelessness in the city is an absolute disgrace. This attack upon the urban poor in order to protect the interests of wealthy businesses and corporations is utterly bereft of intelligence or compassion. The mayor's decision to "solve" the homeless problem by discouraging panhandling is especially shameful in this, the city of Saint Francis. Francis of Assisi advocated on behalf of the poor and earned his living through panhandling!

Jordan's agenda is clear: business first, human welfare last. For a mayor who cares so much about looting in the streets, it is a little more than ironic that his own budget loots the city's transportation and health care systems, and robs the city's poor of essential social services.

What's to be done with such a classist, hypocritical mayor? In a word: recall.

Al Kielwasser
Park Street



J-Church Extension Should Be Derailed

Editor:

A letter in your April issue endorsed a proposal to extend the J-Church streetcar line from 30th Street to the San Francisco State/Stonestown terminal. The letter, which was written by Steve Roseman in the name of Friends of Noe Valley, encouraged the public to stand behind the extension by writing to the Public Utilities Commission (PUC).

Before writing to the PUC, however, you should consider several points. First, the San Francisco Municipal Railway has stated that our current service levels will not be increased. Second, Muni has said it will continue to operate the J-line as a single car, not a double. Third, the new extension is expected to cut the time to the Balboa Park Station, thus drawing passengers away from the current K and M trains. This was meant to relieve the heavy passenger loads of these lines.

Although the extension to Stonestown may seem like a wonderful idea, I ask, can the J train support any additional passengers? The answer is plain and simple: it cannot!

With the exception of a few hours during the midday and late evening, the J carries standing-room-only crowds. Outbound, the car is often full by the time it reaches Civic Center Station. Often passengers must wait for a later train to make the trip back to Noe Valley.

It does not take a degree in urban planning or transportation to realize that should this proposal be instituted, the J car will no longer service Noe Valley. Any daily prime-time/rush-hour rider can testify to a packed train and a very unpleasant ride.

I urge the daily riders to think about your current ride, your ability to gain a seat after a long day at work, the current and projected frequency of service, and the accessibility of the 26-Valencia, which serves the proposed terminus at San Francisco State. Is this proposal really for the good of Noe Valley?

Don Kern
Clipper Street



ILLUSTRATIONS BY KAROL BARSKI

Fond Memories Of Ben Smith

Continued from Page 1

She was never herself after that, growing more frail and delicate as each year passed. Many days he carried her up to a room that allowed her to look over the rooftops to Clipper Street. He had scattered some wildflower seeds on the hillside, and she loved to lie there in that room each springtime, when they were in bloom. (The descendents of those seeds still bloom on that hillside today.)

That's all he told me, and for several weeks after that I did not see him. He was a private person, and may have regretted his candor. Thereafter he rarely mentioned Alma.

Ben often puttered around in our yard. One day when my son, Stephen, was about 6 years old, we came home to find Ben pruning some of my shrubs. As we exchanged pleasantries, Ben continued with his work. Coming across a caterpillar that was chewing on a leaf, he dropped it to the ground and squashed it under his heavy boot. Stephen, a tender-hearted soul, looked at him in horror. Ben had killed a living thing!

Ben spent quite a few minutes trying to explain to Stephen how the caterpillar was damaging the shrub, and that sometimes it was necessary to keep the population under control, etc. It was obvious that Stephen wasn't buying the story, and this bothered Ben.

The next day we found a terrarium on our doorstep. It was a complete ecological system for caterpillars, with soil, leaves, twigs, air, and three furry, squirmy little caterpillars. With it was a set of instructions, to help us see the caterpillars through their metamorphosis.

When the due date for the birth of our second child came and went without issue, I became depressed. Since yellow usually cheers me up, I went out one morning and bought yellow placemats, yellow napkins, and a bouquet of yellow flowers for the dining room table. Ben must have seen this array through our window; later that day I found a large bouquet of lilacs in a pail of water on our doorstep, with a note saying that he thought they would look pretty with all the yellow.

At the 1939 World's Fair on Treasure Island, there was a horticultural exhibit, and on display were some prize-



During his last few years, Ben Smith rarely ventured outside his run-down Victorian at 23rd and Eureka streets. Still, neighbor Helen Garvey and her family share some treasured glimpses of his generosity. PHOTO BY BEVERLY THARP

winning Martha Washington geraniums. Alma had fallen in love with them, so when the fair was being disassembled, Ben cut some slips to grow in his yard, and carefully propagated them over the years.

One day in early spring, Ben asked me if he could plant some new cuttings from those geraniums in our yard; I was delighted. He planted a whole row of them, with a lovely gray, lacy shrub in front for

contrast. For several years he tended and watered them. The drought took its toll on the geraniums in my garden, but I feel sure that Ben found a way to save Alma's.

There were so many little things, really, that shed light on who Ben was. Here are but a few:

Ben was truly in tune with nature; he accurately predicted both droughts of the last 15 years, as well as when they would end (hang on—we may have one

more year to go on the current one!). He warned us of many unusual weather conditions, even when the forecasters failed to do so.

Although he appeared distrustful and antisocial most of the time, Ben deliberately cultivated blackberries outside his garden gate, free for the taking to anyone walking by.

Until a few years ago, he refused to own a TV, scoffing at the newfangled contraption. When someone finally gave him one, he would only watch it standing up!

About twice a year he washed his clothes and hung them out to dry: two pairs of overalls, a set of long johns, and two towels. It was impossible to tell what the original colors had been.

Ben's water heater broke about 20 years ago. A friend helped him buy and bring home a new one, but Ben insisted on installing it himself. He never did, however, and ever since, when he wanted hot water, he had to boil it on the stove.

Ben is gone now. Sadly, his home has been subjected to aggressive scrutiny and occasional break-ins, from vultures interested in getting a piece of that valuable Noe Valley property. Unless the new owner can afford major renovations, the house may soon be torn down and replaced with flats or condominiums. In a year or two, most people will have forgotten Ben Smith, the neighborhood crank who lived on that corner for over 50 years.

Ben told me once that he intended to live a long time, and that when he did die, he hoped to do so in good health. Well, 90 years is a long time, and as far as I know, he was in good health right up until his death. Goodbye, Ben. I will miss you. □

Helen Garvey lives on Eureka Street with her husband, Paul, and their two children, Stephen and Amanda. She first published these reminiscences about Ben Smith in the San Francisco Independent.

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What to Do If You Forgot To Shrink The Kids This Summer

By Laura Holland

Summer activity programs for kids abound throughout the city, but if you're looking for something close to home, here's a list of options that might make your Noe Valley search a little easier.

Buen Dia Family School
589 Guerrero St. (near 18th)
431-3535

This summer Buen Dia offers two three-week sessions and one two-week session, from June 22 to Aug. 14. Children ages 3 to 6 may attend full-time or part-time, between 7:45 a.m. and 6 p.m. In addition to swimming, field trips, and a preschool curriculum, the school has an artist-in-residence for its performing arts program. Fees range from \$200 to \$375 per session. Space is limited.

Children's Learning Service
130 Church St.
864-8395

The Children's Learning Service caters mostly to learning-handicapped and foster children, ages 5 to 18, who need remedial work. But since academic studies are hands-on and individualized, kids who do not require remedial work can get their needs met, too.

Sessions are in July and August, Mondays and Wednesdays, or Tuesdays and Thursdays, from 9 a.m. to noon and 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. In addition to academics, there will be field trips, computer literacy, and arts and crafts.

Columbia Park Boys Club
450 Guerrero St.
861-8232

For only a \$5 yearly membership in the Columbia Park Boys Club, your 7- to 18-year-old son can enjoy a variety of summer enrichment activities from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday through Friday. Facilities include a large gym, outdoor playing field, and three game rooms.

The program offers sports, ceramics, music, computer lab, fine arts, crafts, and photography. Boys may bring their own lunch or purchase one at the club.

Community Music Center
544 Capp St.
647-6015

At Community Music Center this summer, children from 4 to 7 years of age can enjoy a special class where they play rhythm games, learn about pitch, sing songs, and work with an assortment of appealing instruments. The class is geared to prepare kids for private lessons, which they are eligible to begin taking at age 8.

Classes are from July 7 to Aug. 30, on Wednesday or Thursday, from 3:30 to 4:15 p.m. (Additional summer music classes are offered at the Community Music Center branch located at 741 30th Ave., 221-4515.)

Jamestown Community Center
180 Fair Oaks St.
647-6274

This full-time summer program for 5- to 10-year-olds runs from June 22 through July 31. The fee is \$365 for the full six weeks. Jamestown offers field trips three times a week, an art workshop, and outdoor activities.

The recreation center's physical education program includes neighborhood walks, games, and outings. Its "discovery room" activities encourage creative dramatics, stories, science projects, and imaginative tasks.



Kids who find themselves with nothing else to do but play in the Bell Market parking lot this summer should shop around for other romps at nearby parks, preschools, and recreation centers. PHOTO BY ED BURYN

Live Oak School
117 Diamond St.
861-8840

The Live Oak summer program, for children entering kindergarten through grade six, offers swimming twice a week, field trips, drama, and gymnastics. The program runs from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., June 22 through July 31, and costs \$125 per week. Extended care from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. is free. The program has room for up to 60 children.

Miraloma Cooperative Nursery School
443 Foerster St.
584-6244

Parents of youngsters 2 years and 9 months to 5 years of age should consider the Miraloma Nursery School, which is open year-round. Summer activities include water and sand play, as well as field trips. Sessions are from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., and from 1 to 5 p.m. Depending on space availability, you can enroll your child for as few as two half-day sessions, up to five full days. Fees range from \$100 to \$230 a month. Half-day drop-ins are also offered for \$15.

Mission Science Project
106 Bartlett (at 22nd)
239-3138

Hands-on science exploration is what's happening at the Mission Science Project this summer for 10- to 14-year-olds. Kids will learn to use basic scientific tools, such as microscopes and oscilloscopes, and to build small science projects. Priority will be given to children from Mission and Noe Valley schools.

Two sessions are available: June 22 to July 9, and July 13-30. The program runs Monday through Thursday, from 1 to 4 p.m. and costs \$15. Kids ages 8 months to 88 years are also welcome to drop in and explore exhibits between the hours of 1 and 4 p.m., after June 22. (Before June 22, drop-in hours are Monday and Tuesday, 3 to 5 p.m.)

Mission Y.M.C.A.
4080 Mission St.
586-6900

This facility has year-round programs for children in kindergarten through middle school. Summer camp runs from June 15 through Sept. 4, from 7 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Activities include field trips, sports, arts and crafts, and sleep-overs. Fees range from \$30 to \$90 per week.

Randall Museum
199 Museum Way at Roosevelt
(near Buena Vista Park)
554-9600

There is something for every age, toddler to adult, at this unique museum—

from art classes in paper-making to science classes all about "electric cars and gizmos." Kids can also sign up for model airplane workshops or classes in Native American and shamanic traditions. Special family classes are offered for children ages 3 to 5 who are accompanied by an adult.

Prices range from \$8 to \$29 per class session. Drop by or call for a schedule of all classes. The museum also has live animals and a petting corral, and is open Tuesday through Saturday, from 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., and from 2 to 5 p.m.

Silver Tree Camp
Chenery and Elk streets
(in Glen Canyon)
666-7043

This city-run outdoor day camp for kids ages 6 to 11 offers hiking, nature activities, arts and crafts, active games, special events, and more. The eight one-week sessions start on June 29 and run through Aug. 21. Hours are from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., with extended care from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Fees are \$35 per week, except for the first week, which is four days for \$28.

Registration will be held at McLaren Lodge Annex, main floor, Fell and Stanyan streets, on June 8, 10, 12, and 15 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.; June 9, 11, and 16, from noon to 8 p.m.; and ongoing by appointment. (Registrations will no longer be accepted at the camp on Monday mornings, and will be strictly limited to 150 children per week.)

Upper Noe Recreation Center
Day and Sanchez streets
695-5011

The Upper Noe Recreation Center is a free city-run program that runs Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 10 p.m., and Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. It offers gym and trampoline classes, art, field trips, baseball, softball, and tap

dance, all on a drop-in basis.

There's also a "tiny tots" program (you must register for this one by June 12 at noon) and a free lunch program, Monday through Friday, from noon to 1 p.m.. For a complete listing of class days and times, drop by the center and pick up a brochure.

West Portal C.A.R.E., Inc.
5 Lenox Way
753-1113

Two summer programs are available here: a space camp for children in kindergarten through grade 5, and a summer camp for middle school kids. Most of the available openings are for children entering kindergarten. The younger set will do arts and crafts, sports, roller-skating, swimming, field trips, and special events.

The overall theme for the summer is outer space, and secondary themes, such as nature, ecology, science fiction, and technology, will be pursued for two weeks at a time. The middle school camp, formerly James Lick Summer Camp, will offer arts and crafts, computers, swimming, sports, field trips, special events, and movies.

Both programs run from June 22 to Aug. 28, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Extended care is from 7:15 a.m. to 6 p.m. Fees for the regular programs are \$80 per week. Extended care is an extra \$10 per week, and there is an extra fee for swimming. Siblings receive a five percent discount. □

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PACIFIC  BELL.

By Rick Garner

This month, we've trekked east down 24th Street to check out a couple of newer businesses on upper Valencia Street.

Suriya Thai Restaurant
1432 Valencia St.
824-6655

Thailand native Suriya Srithong opened his namesake restaurant, Suriya Thai, on Valencia near 25th Street in May of 1991.

According to occasional maitre d' Ron McBride, who is also Srithong's friend and spokesperson, "Suriya is a master at creating the most unique sauces. He shops



Suriya Srithong is the owner of a Valencia Street restaurant specializing in the cuisine of his native Thailand.

PHOTOS BY CHARLES KENNARD

at the neighborhood produce and meat markets, and loves to create new dishes."

Srithong, who does all the cooking himself, honed his culinary skills while growing up in the province of Chiang Mai, in northern Thailand. There, notes McBride, he learned to use "only the freshest of ingredients," and to prepare each dish with great attention to detail.

The mostly white dining room is accented by potted palms and Thai antiques — teakwood elephants in one corner, and a collection of coconut scrapers behind the bar (try to discover for yourself how they are used before giving in and asking your waiter). At night the restaurant is illuminated by candlelight.

Patrons will find a wide range of appetizers, soups, salads, noodle dishes, and vegetarian entrees to complement the extensive selection of beef, poultry, and seafood. Among the favorites requested by loyal patrons are Chicken Wrapped in Banana Leaves and Shrimp with Ginger Sauce.

Dinner prices range from \$4.50 to \$10. The restaurant also serves lunch, and offers a \$5 special that includes appetizer and soup.

Suriya Thai is open every day except Monday. Lunch is served from 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., and dinner from 5 to 10 p.m. Suriya does not accept credit cards.

STORETREK

Bernie's Pet Supplies
1367 Valencia St.
550-2323

Bernie Wiesen originally opened Bernie's Pet Supplies two years ago, next door to Mission Pet Hospital at 18th and Valencia streets. But the space "was not much more than a closet," she says, so when she had the chance last April to move to larger quarters at 24th and Valencia, she jumped at it.

Located on the sunny side of the street, Bernie's Pet Supplies now offers an expanded stock which includes a wide variety of premium dog and cat food, as well as food and supplies for fish, birds, hamsters, mice, and guinea pigs. Kennels, carriers, leashes, toys, treats, and pest-control items are also on hand. Whimsical posters adorn the walls, and helium balloons float throughout the store. Visitors are often greeted by Sarah, the reigning feline queen, or Hershey, a friendly, chocolate-colored Labrador.

Wiesen, who formerly worked in the restaurant business, says she opened the shop because she "thought the area needed a lot of education about pet care," particularly the care of more exotic or unusual pets. Take rabbits, for instance.

"They make great pets, can be litter-trained, are good with children, and can learn to be very affectionate," says



Bernie Wiesen and Labrador Hershey are the proprietors of a new pet supplies shop on Valencia near 24th Street.

Weisen. She also notes that allergy-prone people seem to have less reactions to rabbits, and that rabbits, like cats, can be left alone for the weekend. Chickens, she adds, are also plentiful in and around Noe Valley, and Bernie's has plenty of feed for your favorite Bantam.

Bernie's Pet Supplies is open Monday through Saturday, from 10 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. "This way," says Wiesen, "people coming from BART can pick up things on the way home." Bernie's will also make deliveries in San Francisco for a \$5 charge.

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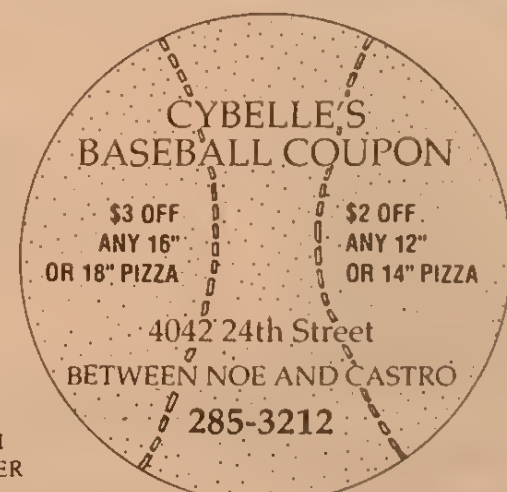
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POLICE BEAT

A Log of Three Long Nights

By Officer Lois Perillo

"It was the best of times. It was the worst of times." These words by Charles Dickens, written during a time of revolution in France, seem to sum up my range of experience during the brief tenure of former Police Chief Richard Hongisto, and during the riots and protests that exploded at the end of April.

For the first month after Hongisto's appointment, it was exhilarating to be a San Francisco police officer, and most of us were excited about the prospect of positive change in the department. But in the aftermath of the Rodney King verdict, everything turned upside down.

On Wednesday, April 29, the afternoon the four Los Angeles officers were acquitted in the police brutality case, I was in Mission Station's holding area, booking a suspect accused of a burglary at Sanchez and 21st streets.

As we both approached the booking counter, the suspect asked the booking officer about the outcome of the L.A. trial. "Not guilty," the officer replied.

The suspect, who had been argumentative prior to hearing this news, became very quiet, then shook his head. "That's messed up," he said.

I thought the same thing. I also feared that riots would soon follow.

San Francisco was relatively quiet the first night after the verdict. After working 13 hours straight because of the burglary arrest, I went home and turned on the TV. I watched in horror as the Los Angeles body count rose and as scenes of destruction shot across the screen.

The following day, I was again at work when the city erupted in violence. Peaceful protesters found themselves flanked

by looters on Market Street, and police as well as private citizens were struck by rocks, bottles, and wood.

In district stations outside the riot area, tensions mounted. All solo patrol officers were told to ride in pairs. I had just been ordered off my bicycle and into a patrol car with two other women when the order came over the police radio: "Per the deputy chief, all watches are held over until further notice." That meant that no officer could leave, even if they had completed their 10-hour shift.

Days off were cancelled, and all officers were called into work. Those of us on the day shift at Mission Station were not released until midnight, and then we were ordered to return at 6 a.m. Friday morning. Although my body rebelled at being roused so early, I somehow managed to climb into my jumpsuit and roll into the station.

At that point, our status was "Step 1—Ready to Respond," and we were told to carry our helmets and 36-inch batons. I was assigned to a squad—a unit of eight police officers and one supervisor—which was split between two vehicles.

I felt lucky to share a van with only two other officers. With everyone's stress level rising, the less anxiety in the air the better.

At a small gathering of protesters at Market and Castro, Jean Harris, an aide to Mayor Jordan, had just distributed copies of the State of Emergency declaration and explained its meaning. The group was receptive, and we encouraged Harris to do the same at 24th and Mission. She did.

In the late afternoon, we stopped for coffee at the S.F. Coffee Company on 24th Street. At the shop, many people

Mission CPOP Officer Lois Perillo covers a beat that stretches from 21st and Grand View to Army and Valencia. To reach her, or partner Lorraine Lombardo, call 647-2767.



PHOTO BY BEVERLY THARP

expressed their concern for citizens' and police safety. One woman insisted upon treating me to a cappuccino and cookie. Her expression of kindness stayed with me during what would be a very difficult night. Thank you.

We patrolled the area of 24th and Mission in the early evening, responding to a call for backup that said bottles were being thrown at officers. This was just before the Mission Street demonstration that was planned for 7 p.m. Then Police Chief Hongisto arrived and ordered the crowd dispersal orders read. I heard them read in English and Spanish, then our half-squad went mobile again.

Upon heading north, I saw hundreds of people encircled by a platoon of police on Mission between 22nd and 21st streets. There was a group of about 20 onlookers and verbal protesters on the north corner of Mission and 21st who were free to leave.

We got out of the van and joined a thin line of police who were preventing the onlookers from crossing into the arrest area. We were also encouraging them to leave, since we were in a declared state of emergency. One man wanted to engage me in a philosophical debate about constitutional rights, and the collective voice of the group rose with outrage.

I continued my plea that it made sense to leave. About six people took my advice. Then our half-squad went mobile again, until the van was called to 21st and Bartlett to act as a prisoner wagon.

"It's nine o'clock!" the crowd chanted in ironic response to their being arrested

Continued on Page 13



Steve Ratto, the CPOP officer for the southern half of Noe Valley, works out of Ingleside Station (phone 333-3433). His turf is bounded by Sanchez, Army, Mission, and 30th.

Minor Looting In the Ingleside

By Officer Steve Ratto

Here are some stats for my "upper" Noe Valley beat during the month of April. Keep in mind, though, that we have a backlog of reports in our record room (over 1,000).

There were two purse-snatchings in my area—one occurring April 6 at about noon at the intersection of San Jose and Dolores, and the other on April 15 around 10 in the evening at Church and Duncan. A burglary was reported on Valley near San Jose Avenue, and five vehicles were stolen. (This last figure is half of what it was last month.)

Two separate break-ins occurred at Fairmount Elementary School on Chenery Street, both on the same night, with several youths taken into custody.

In the Good News Department: Until recently, the graffiti at Upper Noe Recreation Center at Day and Sanchez was a real eyesore, but thanks to some residents of the community, it no longer exists (at least as of mid-May). I spotted a crew of neighbors one Sunday morning with rollers in hand, cleaning up the so-called art work. It looks great, thanks.

I am pleased to report that only four businesses in the interior Ingleside District were looted during the week of protests following the Rodney King verdict, and none were in Noe Valley proper.

On Thursday, April 30, a man was arrested after breaking in through the skylight at the Taco Bell located at 3296 Mission St. The same night, several suspects broke three front windows of Lightstone's Menswear, 1696 Valencia St., and made off with hundreds of dollars worth of merchandise. Two of the suspects were later spotted riding a southbound Mission Street bus. As our units pulled the bus over, the suspects were seen throwing stolen clothing out of the rear windows. Both were taken into custody, however, and most of the stolen merchandise was recovered.

On Saturday, May 2, two carloads of youths drove to Mission and Geneva streets, looking for easy victims. They assaulted an employee and helped themselves to clothes and Nike shoes at Acme Surplus, 5159 Mission St. Then they headed to Charles Jewelry, in the 4500 block of Mission. As two suspects, armed with automatic weapons, stood guard out front, the other four removed display cases and jewelry totalling \$200,000. An alert citizen copied down a license plate and reported it to police. Our plainclothes car located the vehicle in the Sunnydale Projects and made two arrests. Several more arrests are pending.

Here's an idea that surfaced during the recent rioting: why not enforce the youth curfew law? Few people realize that San Francisco has a juvenile curfew ordinance on the books (#539 Municipal Code), which subjects juveniles under 18 to a midnight-to-5-a.m. curfew. (Teens who have jobs at those times—or who are with their parents or have their parents' permission to be out—are exempt.)

Unfortunately, for the past couple of years, we've been instructed not to enforce the law, even though it would go a long way toward combatting the graffiti and auto theft problems in our city. Write the Board of Supervisors if you agree with me that we should reinstate it.

Finally, I want to say that during these difficult times, we have continued to patrol the district, doing our best to keep the peace. Thank you for your help. □

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Still No Savior For Noe Valley Senior Center

By Grace D'Anca

The players may have changed, but the Noe Valley Senior Center, located within the Noe Valley Ministry at 1021 Sanchez St., is again being dealt a slim hand this year.

As of June 30, California Pacific Medical Center (CPMC) will no longer provide daily hot lunches for the Noe Valley Senior Center. CPMC Senior Services Director Janeane Randolph notified the center in an April letter that her one-year commitment was soon to end, and that CPMC had no resources to continue the arrangement. (CPMC's Senior Services, which runs the 30th Street Senior Center, had volunteered to pick up the tab for meals at the Noe Valley site after the city's Commission on Aging cut funding to both senior centers last year.)

David Ishida, acting director of the Commission on Aging, said last month that the COA would provide \$3,700 in FY 1992-93 to fund a part-time site manager at the Noe Valley Senior Center. Ishida also said he was working with other nutrition contractors, such as the Salvation Army, to enlist their aid in providing the Noe Valley meals at no extra cost to Golden Gate Senior Services, the organization that currently sponsors the Noe Valley Senior Center.

According to Noe Valley Acting Site Manager Charles Seaver, the center needs \$24,000 to \$38,000—to fund meals, a full-time site manager, and an activities program.

After capturing the attention of Mayor Frank Jordan at an April Town Hall meeting, senior center members had been hopeful of cutting through the bureaucratic maze and receiving a bailout from San Francisco's Community Block Grant program, a route that Jordan suggested. But in May, they discovered that the deadline for applying for a block grant had passed.

Nevertheless, the Noe Valley seniors say they are not giving up. "We're going to keep on fighting to save the lunch program," says Leonard Shambari, a senior center regular.

Those who'd like to give a helping hand should call the Noe Valley Senior Center at 648-1030. ☐

POLICE BEAT

Continued from Page 11

before the 9 p.m. curfew. Three loudly chanting men were put in the back of our van. One was the man who wanted to debate me earlier.

As we drove to Pier 38, Friday night's temporary holding area for arrestees, the debater told me he was from South Central Los Angeles and that he had one wish for me: that one day I would lie dying in my own pooled blood from gun shots inflicted by a black man who stood over me laughing at my fate.

In the eight years that I have worked as a police officer, I've been called many derogatory names and wished many a damning fate. None compare with the words spoken to me during that Friday night van ride. This man did not know me, yet he hated me because of my profession and skin color.

He knew nothing of my championing of women's and minority rights, and nothing of my struggle within a straight white male-dominated police department. I admit I do not know the details of his per-

sonal struggle against classism and racism. But I know I am an agent of peaceful change. And I decry any act of violence against any human being.

We dropped the men at Pier 38 and returned to 21st Street to assist in searching female arrestees. When I got there, one woman was restrained with plastic "flex" cuffs behind her back as a day-pack pulled on her wrists. The cuffs had tightened, causing her pain. With tears in her eyes, she asked me to loosen the restraints. But flex cuffs are nearly impossible to loosen; they must be cut with snips.

At first, I couldn't locate the snips and I tried ineffectively to use a knife. Finally, one of the sergeants handed me the snips, and I cut off the cuffs and rubbed her wrists. I then cuffed her from the front, and she boarded the sheriff's bus.

The next woman I encountered told me that I was part of the problem: I should be ashamed of working where I did, and demonstrate solidarity by quitting my job. I explained that my mission was to effect change from within the police department.

Then we took five Mission Street arrestees to Pier 38. On the ride, they told us that they had been mistakenly herded into the mass arrest, yet they appreciated our professional treatment of them.

At Pier 38, I was surprised to see Gary Kappes, Noe Valley's infamous panhandler, his head bobbing above the crowd

in the holding area. Kappes, who recently underwent a court-ordered drug treatment program at the Salvation Army, told me he had intended to be arrested at the Mission Street protest. "I'm here by choice," he said.

Next, the man who wished me death tried to escape and was stopped.

And so went the long, long night.

After the Storm Had Passed

Two weeks after the controversial protests, a woman in her 70s stopped to talk with me as I was polishing my motor scooter outside my San Francisco home. I was dressed in shorts and a tank top.

At first the conversation stayed light. "What a beautiful day," she said. "You keep your scooter well." Then she regarded me, "Now you must be a teacher." I smiled broadly at the prospect of changing careers, then said with a sigh, "No, ma'am, I'm a police officer."

She stood silently for several seconds, then bowed her head ever so slightly and said, "My respect."

Tears came to my eyes. With two words, a woman I didn't know had validated my profession and acknowledged the extreme hardships of the past weeks.

All of you have my respect. ☐



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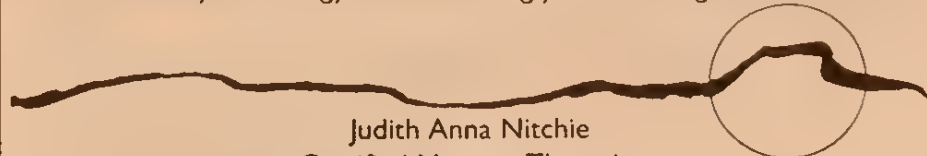
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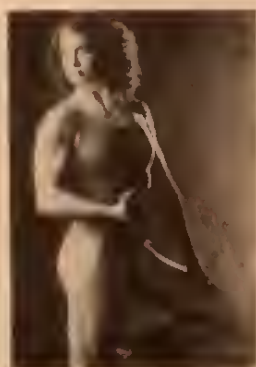
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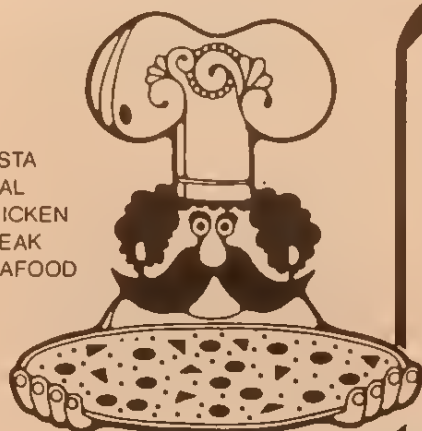


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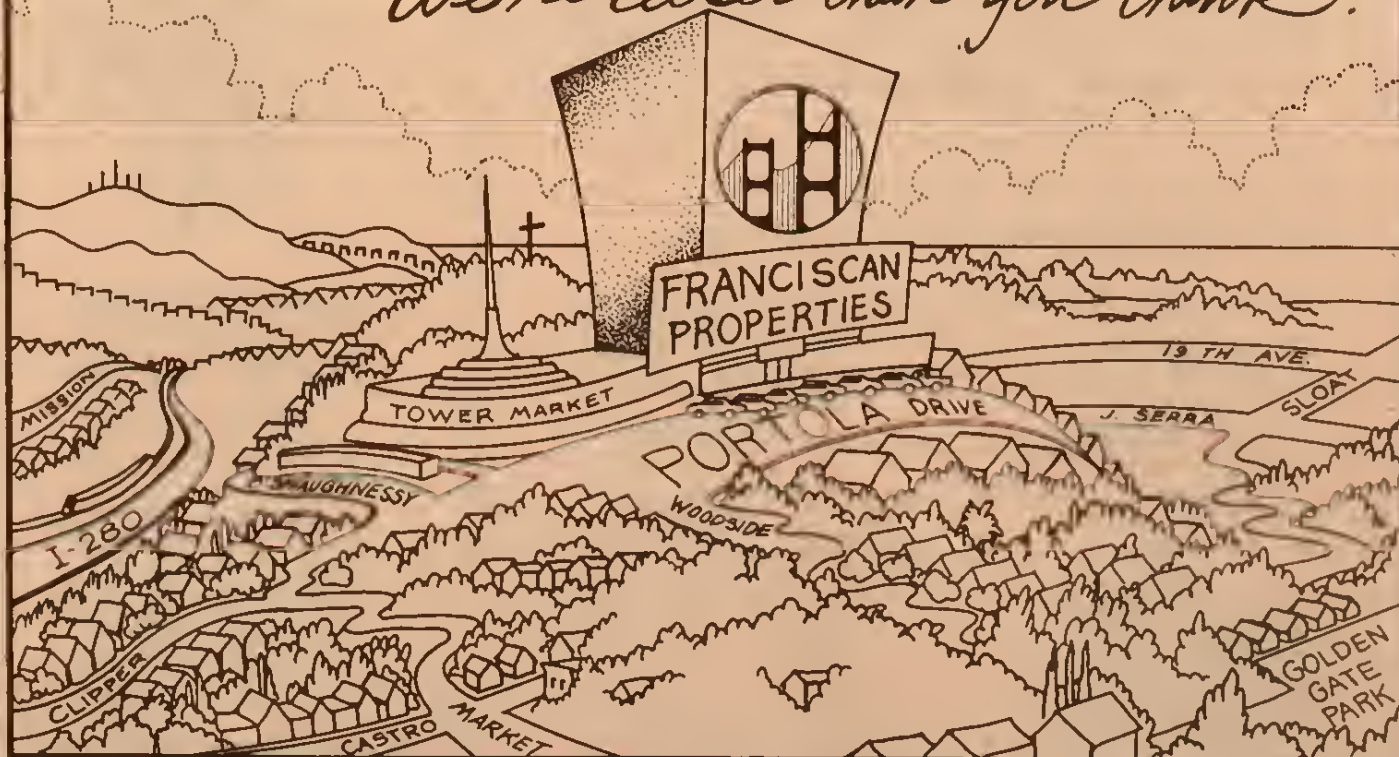
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Tattoo Video A Shot in the Arm for Local Filmmakers

By B.L. Green

Many cinema fans dream of making their own movies, but Dolores Street residents Marge and Bill Hanson are among the lucky few who've actually fulfilled their reel romance.

In July of 1991, the couple, who together comprise Marill Productions, produced *Tattoos Are Forever*, a 30-minute video documentary on the now-flourishing art of "skin etching."

The tattoo video was selected for showing last year in San Francisco's Film Arts Festival at the Roxie, but the video's real coup was winning a spot—alongside *Deadly Deception*, Bernal Heights resident Debra Chasnoff's scathing investigation of General Electric—in the 1991 Australian International Video Festival.

"There were 450 to 600 entries in the competition," says Bill, "and we were definitely excited to be chosen and to be in such good company."

Bill, 39, and Marge, 43, began making experimental videos in the early 1980s, after acquiring equipment from a panorama of sources.

"We put our system together the homebrew way," Bill says, "in bits and pieces, including broadcast-quality stuff we got at a great price because a television station was dumping it. Over time we've bought about \$35,000 worth of sound and film equipment, as well as the IBM computer clone and the software we use to mix film with stills, edit images, and add soundtracks."

"I guess I'm the techie of our production team—I've been involved with electronics and computers since the '70s." Bill also holds a bachelor of fine arts degree from Macalester College in St. Paul, Minn.

Marge, who linked up with Bill while attending the Minneapolis College of Art and Design in the late '60s, hadn't worked on a computer before the couple started making *Tattoos*. At first, she says, she worried about "blowing up the machine" if she made a mistake. But fortunately, her old love of photography came to the rescue.

"I've always loved being in a dark-room," she explains. "And I discovered that a computer is like a digital dark-room."

"It just seems," she adds, "that all the interests I've developed over the years—drawing, movies, comic books, cartoons, photography—came together and led me to the best medium of all for me: video created with the computer as an electronic canvas."

The Hansons first got the notion to do a film on tattooing one day in late 1989, while hanging out with filmmaker-friend Dan Halas and his daughter, Rebecca, at the Meat Market Coffeehouse on 24th Street. "Rebecca said she was going to have a second tattoo done, and asked if we'd like to come along and videotape it," recalls Bill.

Bill and Marge not only videotaped Rebecca's tattooing session (it's a major thread running through the documentary), but also began to line up a colorful cast of Bay Area tattooers and tattooees. For additional images, they traveled to Los Angeles and conducted interviews at the National Tattoo Association's annual convention.

Bill shot the footage, while Marge did the interviewing. Later, they collaborated on editing—and on mixing and matching the tape with still photographs—on their equipment at home. When they needed more sophisticated equipment, they worked out a trade with the Bay Area Video Coalition. They also received promotional support from the



Marge and Bill Hanson edited their documentary on tattooing, featured at last year's Australian Video Festival, in their home studio on Dolores Street. PHOTO BY CHARLES KENNARD.

San Francisco Film Arts Foundation.

Along the way, they learned how to mesh their artistic ideas with the technical aspects of video production.

"The way I do the camera work," Bill says, "is based on painting I've done, especially in composition. I'll take credit for one concept that we've developed for our videos, which I call the 'guardian angel' concept. The idea is that instead of just sticking the subject's head and shoulders in the middle of the frame—a standard 'talking heads' interview arrangement—you should always allow enough room for the person's guardian angel. It's like allowing enough white space in publishing."



Tattoo artist Richard Cyr shows off his skin-etchings in this mixed-media clip from the documentary *Tattoos Are Forever*. PHOTO MONTAGE BY MARGE HANSON

"I would advise filmmakers," he continues, "to know your material and like it, because once you start editing, you'll see and hear it ten thousand times."

"You hate it after a while," Marge agrees. "But then you take a break and come back to it with a fresh perspective. Aspects you couldn't see in advance suddenly come up or come together. You get an insight, it lasts a few seconds, and for that few seconds it's nirvana, pure bliss."

After juggling their finances to finish the video—the couple paid most of the \$40,000 in production costs for *Tattoos* out of their own pocket—the Hansons ran into what would be their most formidable hurdle: distribution.

"Production is one thing," says Marge, "distribution another. Distribution remains a difficult barrier to cross for video artists and their audiences."

"Basically," Bill adds, "the main commercial film distributors aren't interested in trying to sell independent films, especially documentaries. So we decided to take distribution into our own hands, and that's when we got an 800 number." You can order a copy of *Tattoos* for \$24.95 by calling 1-800-442-6943.

As a sideline, Marge also started to sell framed color photos. "I was extremely surprised and gratified when August

Coppola [dean of media arts at San Francisco State] called recently and asked to buy one of my photos that he'd seen hanging at the Meat Market," she says. (She plans a second show at the coffeehouse in September.)

"Some of the pictures I take from our videos," she explains. "In fact, I like grabbing images from film. Other pictures I make up—it's the principle of montage with different images combining in a dynamic way."

This dynamism is what the Hansons believe gives their work distinction. In *Tattoos Are Forever*, they approached a subject replete with taboos—and one that could easily have degenerated into skin-flick kitsch—with open minds and a strong belief in freedom of expression.

"The people we interviewed seemed like walking canvasses," Marge marvels. "Tattoos make you different. Our film raises an interesting question: how different should people be in our society?"

"As one of the tattooed women says in the film," Bill adds, "it's something she consciously chose to do with her body, a part of her self-identity."

"*Tattoos Are Forever* addresses people's narrow-mindedness. Small-minded philistines are prejudiced against them, but they're prejudiced against all art. Our film says, open up, there's a big world out there. It's okay to be different."

In ways comic and poignant, the people interviewed in *Tattoos*—whether male, female, straight, or gay—each make a personal statement about why they chose this lasting form of body decoration. (In the tattooing process, the tattooist uses an electric needle to inject colored ink under the top layer of the skin. Because they are very difficult to remove, tattoos are virtually permanent.)

"People are afraid of tattoos," says one young blond woman, "but that's an important reason to get them. '[It's how] I reclaim this power to put something on my skin and call it mine.'"

A youthful dude wearing a bandana sees being tattooed as a streetwise approach to avoiding people he wouldn't like anyway. "I think tattoos weed out the

assholes... so it kind of eliminates undesirables."

An older man, dressed in red silk like a Roman Catholic cardinal, with a bone in his nose and small round dark glasses, rejoices in the foreverness of tattoos: "It's something I'll always have and nobody can take from me, which is what makes them so valuable."

C.W. Eldridge, a Berkeley tattooist, says that after his clients satisfy their first concern—whether they risk being infected with AIDS (the answer is no, since the needles are routinely sterilized)—"then it goes to 'What's my mama gonna think, and how much does it cost?'"

But the main focus is on the design. Aside from the usual hearts, anchors, and mermaids, the tattoos featured in the Hansons' video include skulls, flowers, serpents, vampires, and images from eastern and American Indian culture. Conventional religious symbols also abound, such as praying hands, the Infant of Prague, and a detailed rendering of Jesus, crowned by thorns, in all his agony.

After viewing so many creative body markings, Bill says he is considering getting his own tattoo—based on an abstract painting he's done—but that he and Marge still prefer to express themselves through the film arts.

The couple recently completed another video in March, a 45-minute documentary called *Bowie Knives: A History of the Bowie Knife Collection of Robert Berryman and Charles Schreiner III*, which is also available by phone order.

But these days their common vision is turning southward, to the high hopes and heartbreak terrain of Hollywood. Although they don't have a theme yet, says Bill, "our dream is to do a feature film, probably 90 minutes. To us that's the really big thing, using a feature film to tell a story well."

Before *Tattoos*, "whenever I used to see a great film," notes Marge, "I'd ask myself, why couldn't I do something like that? The question, though, was always, how?"

"Now," says Bill, "the question is, what's next?" □

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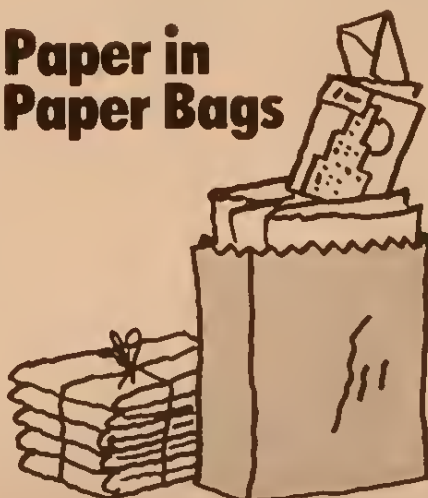
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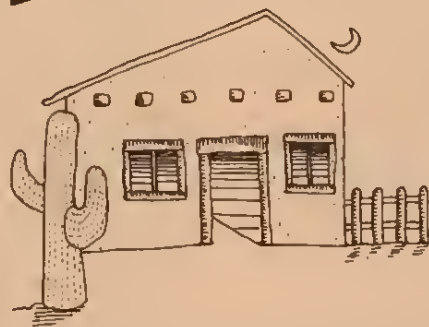
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New Anti-Racism Group

Noe Valley residents have formed a group called R.A.A.G.E.—standing for Race Awareness Arbitration Group Education—to combat racism in the neighborhood.

Member and spokesperson Donna Bervinchak says R.A.A.G.E. was an outgrowth of a May 5 meeting at the Noe Valley Ministry, "which was held in response to our outrage over the Los Angeles Police Department brutality verdict against Rodney King." The get-together, led by Noe Valley Ministry Pastor Carl Smith, was attended by about 50 people, who, Bervinchak notes, needed a safe place "to vent their anger" at the King verdict.

Of those who attended the meeting, 28 expressed an interest in continuing to meet at the Ministry on a weekly basis, on Tuesdays from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m.

According to Bervinchak, the goal of the group is to address the racism right here at home by encouraging awareness and education on racial issues, and by mediating racial tensions between ethnic groups.

"We decided to do something about the racial incidents we see in Noe Valley and other neighborhoods," Bervinchak says. "The first thing we're going to do is go to a Noe Valley Merchants meeting, to point out the racial incidents that have happened in several of the stores in Noe Valley."

In addition, she adds, "We've already got a letter on Mayor Jordan's desk informing him about our group and trying to get him to back us."

To generate new members and encourage input from all communities and groups, R.A.A.G.E. will also set up a table on 24th Street, the fourth weekend of every month, where residents can write comments or describe racial incidents in a special log.

"It is in the interest of everyone to encourage people to reach for an equal level of justice," Bervinchak observes. "Since racism starts with the individual, it is up to each person to take a stand."

This month, the R.A.A.G.E. table will be set up on Sunday, June 28, from 11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. For the exact location, or to find out more about the weekly Tuesday meetings, give Bervinchak a call at 282-4743.

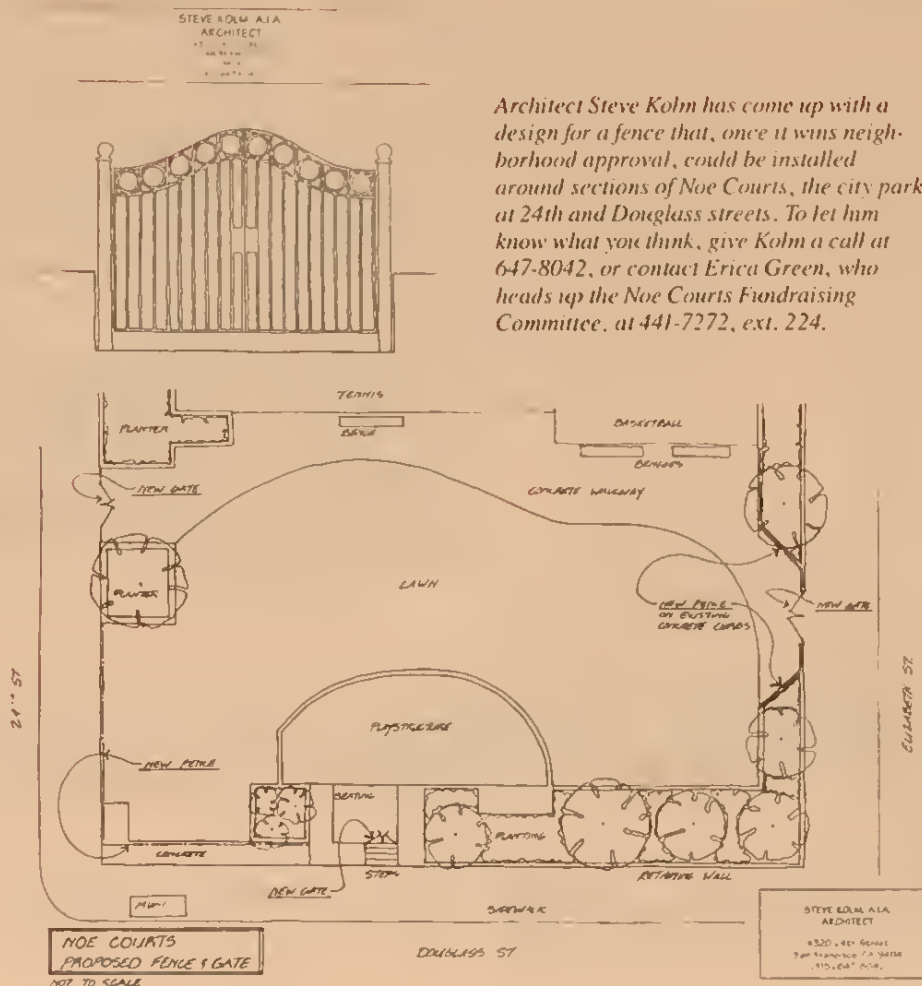
Fencing Noe Courts

Thanks to an actively involved group of residents, improvements to Noe Courts—the city park located at 24th and Douglass streets—are happening one right after another.

According to Erica Green, head of the Noe Courts Fundraising Committee, the new children's play structure, erected a year ago, was only the beginning. Since then, a new drinking fountain has been installed, plans are under way to resurface the basketball and tennis courts, and, most currently, "we have a great new fence design to put around the park perimeter, and we want the community to see it before it is installed."

The idea for a fence was originally proposed by residents whose toddlers had been enjoying the new play structure. Neighborhood resident and architect Steve

SHORT TAKES



Architect Steve Kolm has come up with a design for a fence that, once it wins neighborhood approval, could be installed around sections of Noe Courts, the city park at 24th and Douglass streets. To let him know what you think, give Kolm a call at 647-8042, or contact Erica Green, who heads up the Noe Courts Fundraising Committee, at 441-7272, ext. 224.

Kolm, who donated his services to design the 3-foot, 6-inch fence, explains that many parents were concerned because "there's a bus stop at 24th and Douglass, and kids were running into the street there."

Kolm designed a decorative, European-style fence made of galvanized steel (which will be painted dark green in about a year, after the galvanized coating has cured), to enclose the open corner of the park nearest the play structure.

(The remainder of the park's perimeter, notes Kolm, except for the two main entrances, is enclosed by "a big raised planter with a retaining wall, which is dense with plants and keeps kids out of the street.")

This "phase one" of the design has already been approved by the San Francisco Recreation and Park Commission and is scheduled to be done over the summer. But there's also a proposed "phase two," which still needs public approval. That's a plan, says Kolm, to add two more gates (of the same height and construction), one at each of the park's two main entrances.

"The neighbors think it's a great idea

to do phase two," says Kolm, "in order to deal with another problem at Noe Courts: the dog-doo problem." The gates, Kolm explains, would deter a growing number of off-leash dogs from entering the park.

"So far we've had no negative input, but the Recreation and Park Department wants the general public to be notified of the proposal—if there are going to be any objections or complaints, they'd rather hear them now than later."

If you have a comment or question about the fence installation or design, contact Kolm, at 647-8042 or Green, at 441-7272, extension 224.

Fred Methner Day

What better way to spend a weekday morning than on 24th Street—sweeping up garbage, washing sidewalks, and painting out graffiti?

That's the general consensus from members of the Noe Valley Merchants and Professionals Association, who have just planned the neighborhood's first annual "Fred Methner Day," in honor of the late Fred Methner, neighborhood clean-up artist extraordinaire.

Although clean streets is the goal, the primary purpose of the day, says Merchants President J.P. Gillen, is "to remember and honor the many years of dedication by Fred Methner to the preservation and beautification of Noe Valley."

Fred Methner Day is scheduled for Wednesday, June 17 (Fred's birthday), from 9 to 11 a.m. Merchants and resident volunteers will fan out along 24th Street's entire commercial strip—as well as on several blocks of Castro, Noe, and other cross streets—armed with brooms, dustpans, garbage bags, and sidewalk-weeding utensils (please bring your own).

Those interested in participating should meet at Panos' Restaurant at the corner of 24th and Noe streets, where you will be rewarded with complimentary coffee and donuts before being marshalled into work crews.

For the rest of the scoop on Fred Methner Day, call Gillen (of Little Italy Restaurant) at 821-1515.

Teen Basketball

The annual summer Teen Neighborhood Basketball Tournament, sponsored by the San Francisco Recreation and Park Department, is accepting sign-ups through Thursday, June 11, at 5 p.m. Those who would like to join a team should contact their neighborhood recreation center (Upper Noe Recreation Center, 695-5011) or the city's Athletic Office at 753-7029.

Sixteen teams in each of two divisions will compete in the single round-robin tournament, with play beginning Tuesday, July 7. Tournament play will take place at four different sites in the city, with playoffs to be held at Kezar Pavilion.

To be eligible, players must attend school or live in San Francisco. School varsity players, with the exception of junior varsity members, are not eligible. No player can participate on more than one team.

Team rosters can be mailed or hand-delivered Tuesday through Saturday, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., at the Recreation and Park Department's Athletic Office, Stanyan and Waller streets.

This month's Short Takes were written and compiled by Jane Underwood. □

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PHOTO BY PAMELA GERARD



Caught in the Act of Being Fathers outside Phoenix Books on 24th Street last month were Jerome White, slinging 9-month-old son Kai (left), and Steve Kolm, bearing 1-year-old Lauren.



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Seniors Fight Back Against Crime

Continued from Page 1



Voice columnist Florence Holub models her version of the "safety wallet," a child's purse she adapted to wear inside her jacket. PHOTO BY PAMELA GERARD

The Frail Are Often Targeted

On May 10, an 83-year-old woman walking near her home on Mission and 25th streets was slashed in the face with a beer bottle after an unsuccessful attempt to snatch her purse.

Close to two years ago another woman, also in her 80s, was robbed and raped by an intruder after she returned to her Noe Valley home at 1:30 in the afternoon. She has since sold her home and moved out of the state.

"It certainly seems like seniors are targets for crime," says Sarah Mote, a social services coordinator at the 30th Street Senior Center. "I've heard a lot of stories from seniors. I walk the same streets and take the same buses many of them do, but nothing has ever happened to me. People are often picked as targets for crime because they look frail, are elderly, or don't speak English."

And as the AARP points out, the consequences can be far more serious for the elderly than for younger adults. For seniors who are suffering from medical ailments, a purse-snatching, for example, can easily cause permanent disability.

"When seniors are attacked," says Betty Garvey, director of the Diamond Senior Center, "it's not just their purse or wallet and valuables they lose. Someone who is 70 or 80 years old can have osteoporosis, fall down during a purse-snatching, break a hip, be hospitalized, and never recover."

Because many seniors live on fixed incomes, they are also less resilient to

financial loss than their younger counterparts who work. When Anita DeJesus, 67, was robbed last year, the culprit took \$300, leaving DeJesus without grocery money for an entire month.

"Now I don't leave any cash at home," she says. "I used to go to the bank once a month, deposit a portion of my S.S.I. check, and keep \$300 for groceries and other essentials. Now I go to the bank three times a month to withdraw money as I need it. It's more difficult for me this way, but I can't afford to have someone steal my money again. I need every penny to get by."

Muggings Are Commonplace

Interviews with DeJesus and 25 other older people at the Noe Valley, 30th Street, and Diamond senior centers yielded nearly a dozen personal encounters with purse-snatchings, robberies, aggressive panhandling, or con games. In most cases, the seniors were only blocks from their home, walking to a neighborhood church or grocery store, or on their way to a social function.

"When I was 13 years old, I used to take the bus home from babysitting jobs in the Mission at 1:30 at night," says Jersey Street resident Ruth Williams, 75. "Now, I never walk at night by myself. Even if I just have to go around the corner, I take my car. It's just not as safe as it once was."

Adds Emilio Tejada, 71, a San Jose Avenue resident, "I do not feel safe at night. Twenty years ago, I could go out in the evening and feel safe, but no more."

When he runs errands during the day, Tejada brings along a minimal amount of cash, his driver's license, and copies of his Social Security card and medical clinic membership. "I leave everything else at home," he says, "including the originals of my Social Security card and medical information. I have to carry the original of my driver's license, though. People won't accept a copy of that for identification."

Choose the Best Self-Defense

According to Officer Perillo, Tejada and Williams are taking the right approach to ensuring their safety. "People should not stop doing what they want to do, but they do have to make some compromises," she says. "I don't encourage people to live in fear, but I do encourage them to limit their liabilities and look out for each other."

"Walk with a partner, stay in well-lit areas, keep a whistle on your key ring in case of emergency, walk with your keys in your hand. I also encourage people to



Sixty-eight-year-old Dan Trickey felt compelled to install bars outside his windows, following a break-in at his 25th Street apartment. PHOTO BY TOM WACHS.

participate in group outings. The old adage—there's safety in numbers—is very true."

Although Perillo does not recommend that seniors fight back against assailants, some seniors still choose that option.

Six months ago, Tejada and a female friend were chatting on the front steps of the 30th Street Senior Center when a young woman ran up to Tejada's companion and tried to grab her purse. The senior held the bag tight to her small frame as the purse-snatcher tried to force it away. After a struggle lasting over a minute, the purse strap broke and the suspect fled, leaving the senior with her belongings intact.

"Although I don't encourage people to confront a suspect," says Perillo, "they also don't have to just nod their heads and do what the suspect tells them to do. They should do whatever they think will keep them safe. That can involve a vari-

ety of different responses—running and screaming, turning over their wallet, or using self-defense moves against the assailant.

"However," Perillo cautions, "when a suspect has a weapon, the best route is to do what the suspect says to do."

This spring Perillo suggested to Gloria Boldizar, who runs a karate school at Castro and 24th, that she offer a class specially tailored for seniors. Boldizar is in the process of organizing one (see sidebar, this page).

Escort Program Available

Garvey advises her fellow seniors at the Diamond Senior Center to wear coats

Karate Offers Seniors a First Strike Capability

This summer Gloria Boldizar, proprietor of Boldizar Karate at 1307 Castro St., hopes to hold a special four-week course in self-defense for Noe Valley seniors. The course will be either free, or offered at a significantly reduced cost to participants, she says.

"The Kenpo style of karate, which I teach, is very good for women, seniors, and the handicapped," says Boldizar, "because students are able to use weapons they already have, like their elbows and knees. They don't necessarily have to be real strong or fit."

The class will meet once a week, and the 20 or so students who enroll will learn a variety of movements.

Notes Boldizar, "You learn karate by repetition. My goal in teaching this course is to enable seniors to take care of themselves. Movements like the elbow strike should become natural reflexes for them when it comes to their safety. It's similar to a person knowing she's supposed to move her hand away from fire."

Boldizar asks that seniors who are interested in signing up for the course phone her at 826-6123, so she can determine the level of interest and the most convenient dates and times to meet. □

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or jackets with several interior pockets to hold their belongings. She also encourages them to purchase "safety wallets," which come with a string and are worn around the neck. Wallets that attach to belts or skirts are another option.

For adults (60 and older) who suffer from medical ailments like arthritis, which makes it difficult for them to get around town alone, the Senior Escort Program, a civilian-staffed arm of the San Francisco Police Department, provides escort services to medical appointments, banking, shopping, and government offices. The program also provides crime prevention meetings, residential security surveys, bilingual translation, and group outings for seniors.

Noe Valley seniors who live east of Castro can arrange for transportation through the Mission District division of the Senior Escort Program. (At this time, the program does not extend to Noe Valley residents living west of Castro.)

Says Operations Director Lucy Lui, "Our program is a way for seniors to feel safe and independent and stay active in their community."

Crime Prevention Workshop June 25

At the 30th Street Senior Center on June 25 at 10:30 a.m., SAFE, CPOP (Community Police On Patrol), and the Senior Action Network will co-sponsor a crime prevention workshop in which street crime, public transit safety, con games, and other crime prevention issues will be reviewed. (For additional information on the workshop, call 673-SAFE.)

"Since most older adults get around by foot or public transportation, it's very important that they stay smart and pay attention to their surroundings when they go out," says Pam Matsuda, program coordinator for SAFE. "Seminars like these are a good place for older adults to talk about what it feels like if they've been a victim. It's a place where they don't have to feel foolish or embarrassed, a place where they know they will be supported."

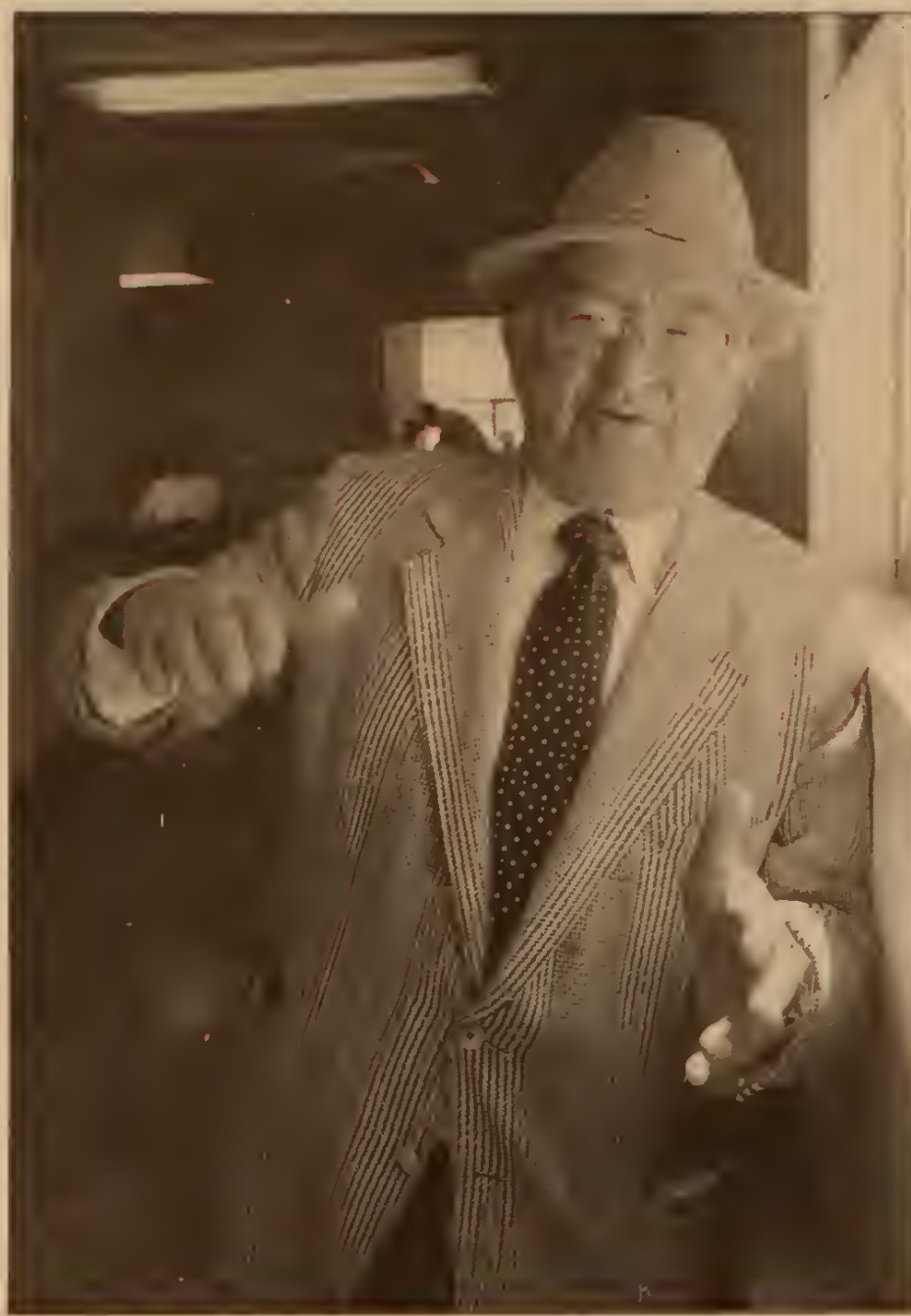
Matsuda also encourages seniors to create or join a neighborhood watch group on their block, so that they can learn how to protect themselves, their families, and property from crime.

"Seniors are the eyes and ears of the neighborhood during the day," says Matsuda. "It's important that they look around their street for suspicious activity, because most of their neighbors are at work during the day."

How to Recover from an Attack

Although most older adults try their best to avoid being the victims of crime, Garvey, who has been pickpocketed twice, says, "Things still happen even if you take precautions. It's hard to be on guard all the time."

And according to CPOP's Perillo, "Surviving after the fact is very impor-



Emilio Tejada, a regular at the 30th Street Senior Center, says he now travels light when running errands in the neighborhood. He also makes sure to carry copies, and not the originals, of valuable pieces of identification. PHOTO BY TOM WACHS

tant. Gather support around yourself after you have been the victim of a crime. Talk with those you trust about the incident. Seek professional help. After all, if your arm is broken, you'd go to the doctor, wouldn't you? It's always appropriate to find a way to get through a difficult situation."

The Victim/Witness Assistance Program, sponsored by the San Francisco District Attorney's Office, is one avenue of support for victims of crime. The program provides counseling, referral services, and help in applying to the state's victim compensation fund for medical expenses and financial losses caused by criminal activity.

The program is located at the Hall of Justice, but Noe Valley residents also have the option of meeting with a program representative a little closer to home—on Thursdays from 1:30 to 4:30

p.m. at the Dolores Community Center at 15th and Dolores streets.

"We want to be visible in the community," explains Elba Eder, an advocate employed by the program. "Some people see the big Hall of Justice building, and it's foreboding to them. They feel uncomfortable coming here."

Like Perillo, Eder feels that "it is important that people get the support they need after being a crime victim. Even a purse-snatching can really injure a person, especially if she is frail. Glasses could be broken or a blow to the head might cause someone's hearing aid to be knocked out, for instance."

Concludes Gautier of SAFE, "It's frustrating for anyone to be a victim. The best advice I can give people is that when you leave your house, limit what you have with you. Know what you can afford to lose."

There's Safety In Numbers

Several agencies are ready and willing to help seniors increase their personal safety, or snap back following an encounter with crime. Here are some names and numbers:

San Francisco SAFE, Inc.
850 Bryant St., Suite 553
San Francisco, CA 94103
673-SAFE

Senior Escort Program
Mission District
1101 Capp St.
San Francisco, CA 94110
695-5185

Victim/Witness Assistance Program
850 Bryant St., Room 320
San Francisco, CA 94103
553-9044

Community Police on Patrol (CPPOP)
Officer Lois Perillo or
Officer Lorraine Lombardo
Mission Station
1240 Valencia St.
San Francisco, CA 94110
647-2767

Officer Steve Ratto
Ingleside Station
#1 John Young Lane
San Francisco, CA 94112
333-3433

American Association of Retired
People
601 E Street NW
Washington, D.C. 60049
(202) 434-2277

"And if you are a victim, look into the systems that can support you. The worst thing that can happen is when people become so frightened that they isolate themselves and become prisoners in their own home. They need to get past those feelings and overcome their isolation or they might have a much larger problem on their hands." □

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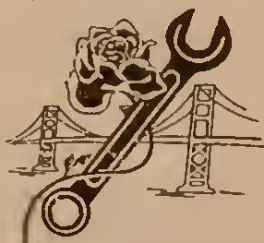
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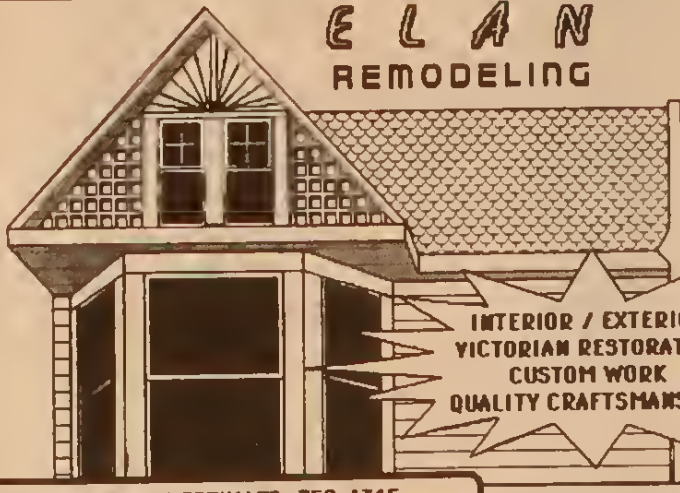
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A Father's Fatigue

By Bill Yard

The rain woke me. It danced on the skylight in the attic, where we sleep.

An hour before the alarm, in the dark, I listened to my gut, working on too much food. Rich food from the dinner party: shrimp cocktail, rack of lamb, cannoles and napoleons from Dianda's on Mission Street... the works. Plus plenty of black coffee and strong rhetoric. Polite crossed swords.

Outside I heard cars gliding along Church Street. My wife made a sound in her sleep and moved closer. She and the others had had champagne, then Cabernet, and finally muscatel. I didn't drink. I can't.



We were talking about kids. I brought up the subject. My daughter has been staying with us, while her mother explores, finds remedies in, a Central American rain forest. I mention this; all the while I'm thinking about the moisture, the green things, the suffocating Creation, grabbing at ankles, scratching, blocking the light. Not like the grey rectangles of the city, which have lessons of their own to teach.

My daughter has been in my thoughts. She's a good kid, but she's in middle school now, public school. She's maturing. She takes buses all over town. I wonder about some of her friends.

She was relieved tonight when I said she could stay home, alone.

It was warm in the parlor of our friends' house, as we waited for the lamb to be done. I was talking about being a parent. I talked about how my daughter's behavior made me... nervous, sometimes. How everything was different now, more dangerous.

One of the other guests, a woman, set her glass on the table.

"I don't see anything wrong with

what she's doing," she said. "After all, didn't we act the same way when we were young? There's no harm in her living her freedom."

She seemed pleased at the silence that ensued. She picked up her champagne and started up again.

"She needs to get away from you for a while, get out on her own. What your daughter needs is a fresh look at things, like what it's like somewhere far away, somewhere exciting..."

By then I was ignoring the hors d'oeuvres. Blood pounded through my neck.

My wife listened, narrowed her eyes, and fell silent. She is childless. In conversations about children among strangers, she speaks in noncommittal terms. She knows the futility of hindsight and the failure of good intentions. My wife is from different stock. Five of them kept each other from falling apart, her brothers and sisters and her. For the sake of themselves and their mother, the widow, they behaved. Today they are like the redwoods in Muir Woods.

The other men in the room were shrinking back into their chairs, on cue, receding from this gauntlet of child-rearing that had been tossed down. For a moment I looked this woman, this expert, straight on, rehearsing my reply.

She and her boyfriend had brought their new puppy, a golden retriever, to the dinner party. They bought him from a breeder. Now that the house up north was finished, they'd be leaving the flat in Neo Valley. The dog will have a nice big house and a big yard to play in. Like the dogs that live with some of the women from my office. Perfect dogs, dogs that eat perfect blends of special food. Perfect dogs in perfect houses in perfect little towns in the suburbs. These are career women. They all have dogs. No kids; just dogs. For them, Neo Valley is just a place to buy coffee.

She got up to take the puppy for a walk. There was nothing to say at that

point. I have too often proved myself wrong, particularly about my ability to father. Rebuttal only adds to my fatigue. Instead I sat and stared out, through watery eyes, cloaked in my warm obesity. Like the other men, I retreated to the safety of the conversation's perimeter.

As I lay in bed this morning, listening to the rain, I realized that I hadn't called my mom in over a week. I usually call her every couple of days. Maybe I'll call her this morning during my coffee break.

Lying there, I could remember being a boy, being upstairs, in the dark. From the top of the stairs I could hear the laughter from the living room, the cards shuffling, the ice in the glasses. Sometimes, I'd get up out of bed and sit at the top of the stairs, listening.

Sometimes I'd walk down, rubbing my eyes. My mom would comment about how I should be in bed, but I'd get away with it: they had company.

Mainly, I'd come down so I could see my dad. It was one of my few opportunities to get him like this, a captive audience. He'd smile and give me a hug. He'd always let me have a taste of his beer. Pabst Blue Ribbon.

"How've you been, Mom?" I'll ask, when I call her today.

"Oh, don't worry about me," she'll reply. "I'm sure you've been really busy."

That's right, Mom. I have been busy, for 31 years, since the day my father, riddled with a sickness self-imposed, left me for the last time.



They're clearing the dessert dishes; my wife yawns. The puppy's fallen asleep on the rug. Debates about parenting have bogged down in a mountain of carbohydrates; the others wordlessly agree to a mutual acceptance. For me, though, it's only the fatigue. The woman with all the answers cradles the puppy



Illustration by Karol Barske

and admits, "I'll never be able to have a conversation with him. You guys can at least have a dialogue with *your* kids, but this one will only come around when his bowl's empty." It takes some of the edge off, a moment of grace after the meal.

We say our goodbys, the first to go. Our friends wave to us from the porch. For some, "early to bed, early to rise..." is a matter of choice.

On the ride back up the Bayshore, then crossing over to 280, my wife breaks her silence. She takes issue with the woman with the puppy.

My thoughts have slipped ahead, to Neo Valley. I am thinking about my daughter, our daughter, who will meet us at the door. She'll have every light in the house on, and the TV too, and she'll be on the phone, with her best friend of a week, talking about boys.

Finally the blessed San Jose Avenue exit appears. I wonder if maybe, while we were gone, she will have cleaned her room. She does that sometimes, without our asking.

Like I said, she's a good kid. □



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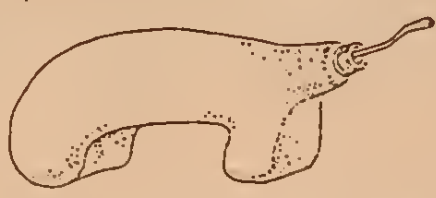
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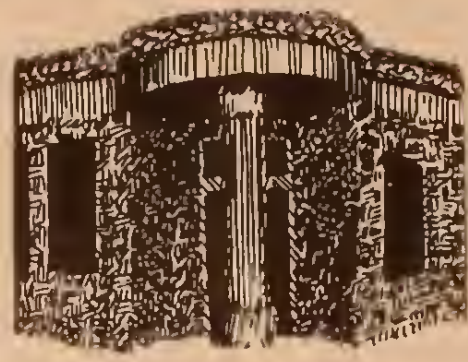
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The Beating

The terrible events in Los Angeles last month make one wonder if brotherhood and justice are actually attainable goals. The Rodney King verdict certainly reeked of racism, and without the videotape, the horrible truth of the incident might never have come to light at all.

For me, the tape served as an agonizing reminder of the brutal treatment my younger brother, Ward, received 20 years ago at the hands of two members of the San Francisco Police Department.

Prior to the incident, my brother had never been in trouble with the law or involved in violence of any kind. He was attractive and good-natured—everyone's friend. He had served in the Navy during World War II, married his childhood sweetheart, and fathered two beautiful daughters. Trained as a carpenter, he worked with our father in a small construction company that built and remodeled many Noe Valley homes. In 1971, at the age of 49, Ward was enjoying a busy social life and lots of partying. He thought the good times would go on forever.

But he did have a drinking problem. And one fateful night, after over-indulging and then driving in an erratic manner, he was stopped by two policemen. He had shown poor judgment, of course, but I cannot believe that he deserved what he got. He was pulled out of his car, handcuffed, and beaten on the skull with billy clubs by two armed officers who could have subdued one unarmed inebriate with ease.

This beating did irreparable damage, although it was not immediately apparent. Several weeks after the incident, Ward's daughter realized that something was wrong when, one morning at breakfast, her father failed to recognize his wife of many years. He was hospitalized, and the doctors, suspecting a brain tumor, operated but found none. Instead, they discovered a build-up of fluids and "dead blood."

To relieve the pressure on his brain, they inserted a shunt—a tube to carry excess fluid to the abdomen where it could be recycled. Then they told us that in a few weeks he would be mentally back to where he had been before the surgery. Unfortunately, that didn't happen, and he was transferred to Laguna Honda Hospital to convalesce.

Physically, my brother looked well

enough, but now he was obsessed with the incident—the beating and the court procedure that followed it. Confusing Laguna Honda with the Hall of Justice, he insisted upon being escorted through the halls of the hospital, in an effort to locate the courtroom in which he was required to appear. Day after day we repeated this search until we were able to convince him of his true whereabouts, and that the court case was indeed over.

Ward didn't seem to know anything else, however. He wasn't sure who I was, but he knew that I had a familiar face. He did recognize his daughters, but he was shocked to see that they were grown up. We came to realize that 20 years of memory storage had been obliterated, in addition to his short-term memory. His brain had been so traumatized by the blows that he would never again be able to function well.

He was shuttled from one rest home

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Illustrated Reminiscences by Florence Holub



On some visits, I took him my *Voice* articles if I thought they would interest him. One story, "A Remembrance of Christmas Past," was about the Swede/Finn festival at Latvian Hall, and our happy participation as little children. He listened intently as I read. When I noticed a tear running down his cheek and asked him if he wanted me to stop, he quickly shook his head from side to side, and I realized these were tears of joy, not sadness. The words had found an avenue to his long-term memory bank! When I asked him if he would like to keep the article, he nodded his head up and down, and as I left, he was holding the clipping pressed against his chest with his one good hand.

But by and large, Ward's attention span was too short for anything weightier than the Sunday funnies, which I took to him every Tuesday. On Wednesdays, my older brother visited, and to test Ward's memory he always asked him if his sister had been there the day before. The answer was always no, with a doleful shake of the head, even though the comics were still in plain view on his night stand.

He was never bitter or angry, and he valiantly tried to cultivate the use of his left hand, because his right arm was useless due to the stroke. But in his hospital art class, he painted the same subject over and over—the violent action of several men beating another man on the head and to the ground. When I asked him who these people were, he couldn't remember. When I tried to suggest a happier theme, a hospital volunteer with a psychology background said it would be better to let him go on working through whatever was causing the fixation.

He finally did change the direction of his brush. And for a time, his control improved to such an extent that he actually sold a few paintings, and also won first prize in a competition.

Early last June, at almost 70 years of age, my brother lapsed into a coma, and two days later he quietly expired.

I just want to say that although the rioting and carnage in L.A. following the Rodney King verdict were reprehensible, police brutality is a monstrous thing that can never be ignored or condoned.

Even though most police officers are good and honorable people, they carry weapons, and can unintentionally cause great harm. In my brother Ward's case, they destroyed his mind, his health, and his life. □

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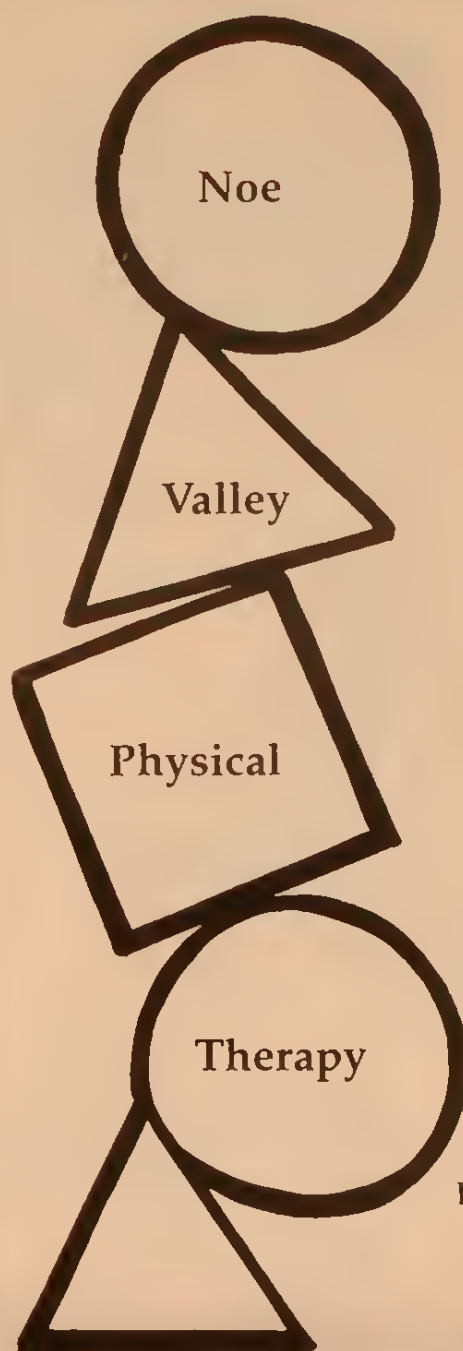
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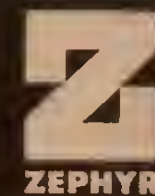
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MORE MOUTHS • to feed •

By Jane Underwood

Andrew Cian Ezarik

If you're a bookstore browser, or just addicted to strolling down 24th Street, you may have noticed a recent window display at Cover to Cover Booksellers. The exhibit, arranged by Cover to Cover employee Mark Ezarik, featured a "live act": Mark's son, Andrew, hard at play with his books and toys, plus playmate Jonah, another Cover to Cover kid.

"It was one of my more successful displays," laughs Mark, 38, despite the fact that one window-shopper remarked, "Okay, this is a lot of fun, but now let's go look at the iguanas" (the window inhabitants at Underwater Pets).

Baby Andrew was born at Pacific Presbyterian Hospital to Mark and Janet Gillen, on May 16, 1991, at 12:54 p.m. He weighed 7 pounds, 11 ounces. Since that momentous occasion, he has been accompanying his dad to work, anywhere from three to five days a week.



According to parents Janet Gillen and Mark Ezarik, son Andrew just wrapped up a show-stopping performance in the window at Cover to Cover bookstore. PHOTO BY PAMELA GERARO

The staff at Cover to Cover, Mark notes, have been "just marvelous" about the arrangement. "Andrew gets more attention than the queen mother. Everybody has really taken to him. Fortunately, he's a low-maintenance child and can amuse himself very well. He's very adaptable, and adjusts to every situation, which is a good thing, considering how tumultuous the world is these days."

Andrew's mom agrees. "Andrew is very good-natured," says 37-year-old Janet, who works as the director of social services at Laguna Honda Hospital. "Our lives haven't totally taken a turn, because he has been so easy."

In the Pre-Andrew Period, Janet was "ambivalent for many years about whether to have children, but now I'm so very happy that we did," she says. "Mother-

hood has been wonderful, and I don't mind giving things up. I never realized how deeply you could love someone, or how my heart would swell, just watching him sleep."

Mark and Janet have lived in Noe Valley since 1979, most recently on Day Street. They were first introduced in 1977 by a mutual friend, whom Mark, then a resident of Austin, Tex., was visiting in Baton Rouge, La. The two hit it off instantly, and began a long-distance courtship that led to a tandem move to Noe Valley in 1979. The rest, including their elopement to Scotland in 1989, is happy history.

Meanwhile, Andrew is making his own history. Already en route to toddlerhood, he has two teeth and a love of hooks. He is also, says Mark, "standing on his own now. Of course, when he realizes this, he panics and falls down—but he's going to be walking real soon."

"You know it's going to be something new every day."

MORE MOUTHS TO FEED wants to show off your newest family member. If you have a new baby in residence or you just adopted a teenager, please send your announcement to the *Noe Valley Voice*, More Mouths to Feed, 1021 Sanchez St., San Francisco, CA 94114. Don't forget to include your address and phone number, so we can contact you to arrange for the family portrait. □

Samuel Max Backer

According to his dad, Dean Backer, Samuel Max Backer, born at Pacific Presbyterian Hospital on Sept. 22, 1991, at 8:56 p.m., "is having a grand old time being a baby."

Dean, 32, describes his son, who tipped the scales at 7 pounds, 6 ounces, as "an old soul with a really good disposition." Sam's mom, Wendy, adds that her little boy is "an incredibly patient baby." He lets his needs be known, but allows a lot of latitude, she says.

"He also has a great sense of humor. For example, he started to play peekaboo all on his own, using his 'Thinga-ma-hib' as a prop."

Thinga-ma-hibs, by the way, are a line of clear vinyl baby bibs designed by Wendy, 31, who is a children's wear manufacturer. (You can find her creations at Out of Hand on Castro Street.)

Sam accompanied his mom to her workplace until he was 6½ months old, and it was this experience, remarks Wendy, that taught her her biggest lesson in mothering: "to place Sam's needs above mine, and to make peace with the fact that I can only get done what I can get done. It's the hardest thing I ever had to do, and the best."

Dean, who works as an art director for



Mom and dad Wendy and Dean Backer report that 8-month-old Sam has learned to play peekaboo with aplomb. PHOTO BY PAMELA GERARO

film and television, agrees that the job sacrifices have been worth it. "It's important to spend as much time with your baby as possible," he says, adding that he'd advise new parents to "wait as long as you can before you hand them off to somebody."

Dean and Wendy first met six years ago in New York City, where they were

both working on a film—Wendy as a production manager and Dean as a prop man. Wendy says Dean caught her eye immediately.

"He had no shirt on—he has a great build—and he was wearing this hat with fishing lures on it, while practicing his golf putting and carrying around a copy of the *New York Times* under one arm. I

thought, who is this guy?"

Dean says the first impression Wendy made on him was equally dramatic. "She was wearing these outrageous orange knit pants, like leggings, but before leggings were popular, and not to be confused with orange polyester hell bottoms. And she had this bright blond hair."

The two married a year later, moved from New York to Noe Valley 3½ years ago, and currently spend every non-working moment watching their son grow.

Sam is on the verge of crawling now, says Wendy, because "he's motivated by his desire to chase our cat, Frannie." When not rocking on all fours, she adds, "Sam loves to roll, until he reaches an object that stops him from rolling." He has also just mastered eating Cheerios, sans milk or spoon.

"I'm still awed by his being here," Wendy says. "I'm amazed that he's a part of Dean and me, and of everyone who came before us."

Dean harkens back to the first day home from the hospital, when he and Wendy had just arrived at their Clipper Street abode. "We looked at each other, laughed, and said, 'Now whadda we do?'"

"But in fact," Dean adds, "it hasn't really been a big stretch for us. Before, we were a couple, but now we're a real family." □

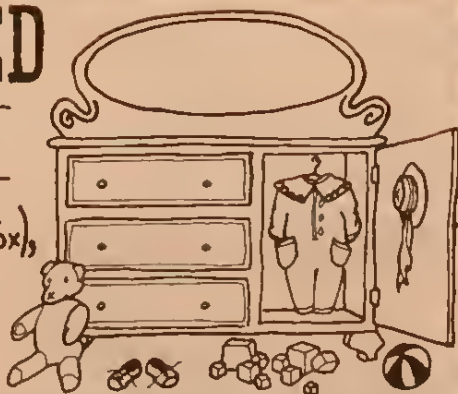
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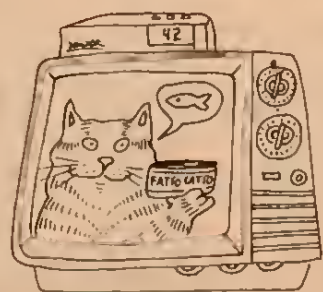


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and now for the RUMORS behind the news

Amassing the Class of 1992

By Mazook

THE MAZOOKMOBILE made its annual trek to neighboring high schools last month, seeking the wisdom of our graduating seniors.

The question posed May 22 to McAteer and Mission High School soon-to-be grads was: "What good, if any, can come out of the Rodney King riots?"

I'd like to thank the students in Javier Mendietta's class at Mission High and Gale Lederer's class at McAteer for taking the time to put their responses down on paper. Here's some of what they said:

"The good thing to come out of the riots is attention. We need people to act," writes Julia Sanders from McAteer. "We need to start fixing problems and get rid of all the politicians who have nothing better to do than [trash] TV shows."

Fellow McAteer student Ben Noyes agrees. "The immediate reaction to the riots and the verdict will cause enhanced racial awareness and bring the problem out." Once we recognize racism as an institutional problem, he adds, "the natural feelings of the community will override the prejudice and cause larger steps towards true integration."

McAteer's Karim Scarlata offers this caveat, however. "I guess a large part of the U.S. is unaware of the urban plight, [and] unless Americans face the economic and class problems, [our] fate may be the same as other empires of the past."

Kenneth Greer, also of McAteer, looks upon the "social disturbances in L.A., San Francisco, and other cities as examples of mobilization through emotion. These disturbances demonstrate to the government how much control they don't have, [which should remind] the police



Mission High provided the backdrop for a May 8 demonstration at Dolores Park protesting the Rodney King verdict. PHOTO BY KIM CAMPISANO

and the government that they have control only because we let them have control."

Down at Mission High, many students cited the truce among gangs as a positive sign. Senior Julio Cordova is convinced that the uprising "will bring an end to gang violence and pull outer turfs closer together."

But writes Cynthia Hisatake: "There was a little good and a little bad to come out of the riots. The good thing was that gangs are starting to unite and have peace. The bad is that there were innocent people who got hurt and all the money lost, which will hurt the economy."

Leroy Bermudez was "glad we had a riot in Frisco, but in L.A. I don't think so, because in Frisco we target the rich and big business, not small businesses that are minority-owned. . . . But in L.A. the blacks just went crazy. Maybe [it would be different] if they went to

school," he noted.

Mission High's Rebecca Villegas had another point of view. "Nothing comes out of violence. It only causes more racism. Riots only cause more harm to innocent individuals who are not involved."

Richard Segovia agrees. "I don't think there was any good done. All people did was make their own neighborhoods look worse than they did before."

Finally, we have McAteer student Jessica Fisher saying, "America needs a wake-up call. We're all going to be here for a while. In order for peace to prevail, someone has to make the first move and say, 'All right, let's stop this nonsense. No matter what you have done to me or I've done to you, let's just start over.'"

To all those who may still be looking for a silver lining, I offer the words of Martin Luther King Jr.: "The more there are riots, the more repressive action will take place, and the more we face the

danger of a right-wing takeover and eventually a fascist society." Yes, we had better renew our war on poverty soon.



THERE'S NOE PLACE LIKE HOME: If you don't read the Sunday *Los Angeles Times Magazine*, you may have missed the paper's pre-riot (April 12) cover story titled "Postcards from a Ragged Edge," by local freelancer Tom McNichol.

McNichol takes a look at the current slump in the stature of San Francisco, a city from which businesses are fleeing and to which homeless people are flocking. In his view, some people are no longer leaving their heart here, if and when they do decide to visit.

"The homeless problem," writes McNichol, "was thrown into stark relief in the person of Gary Kappes, an unassuming

Continued on Page 31

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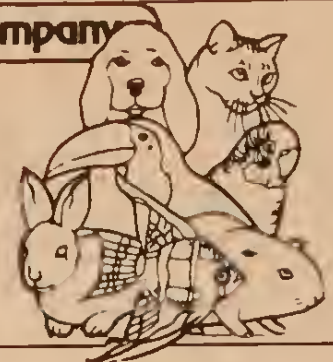
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RUMORS

Continued from Page 29

33-year-old who singlehandedly brought the homeless issue home to the middle-class neighborhood of Noe Valley."

Noe Valley is described as "long one of the city's more pleasant communities, nestled in the sunny bosom of Twin Peaks, a pair of hills the Spanish settlers called Los Pechos de la Chola (the Breasts of the Indian Maiden). More recently, such fertility has taken on a decidedly 'thirtysomething' caste: the mean streets in Noe Valley these days are the ones without ramped curbs for baby strollers."

Readers are then led through the intricate history of how "Gary the Panhandler" was first coddled and later banished from Noe Valley's 24th Street—a great

victory to some, and the ultimate perfidy to others.

The article concludes with the question: "And what rough beast, its hour come round at last, slouches toward Noe Valley for spare change?"

For all we know, that "beast" could be Gary Kappes himself, returning for a rematch. Gary was recently spotted on 24th near Mission. And even though he's completed his court-ordered drug rehab program at the Salvation Army, the neighbors claim he's up to his old tricks.

Oh, one more thing for the record: Gary did *not* win \$37 million in the California Lottery. That was a *Voice* April Fool's joke, and we sure must have a lot of fools out there, present company excepted of course. But wouldn't it have been nice for our psyches if he had?

☎ ☎ ☎

DOGS ARE FIGHTING TOO: A beast did visit main street last month, wreaking

havoc at the corner of 24th and Sanchez.

The way folks tell it, two whippets (small dogs resembling greyhounds) were peacefully sitting on the curb near the Pantry, enjoying the passing scene from their leashes, when an unleashed brown standard poodle attacked them without any provocation, causing much fur to fly.

After the dust had settled, the male whippet had a bite on his neck and mouth, and the whippets' owner, who had tried to separate the dogs, had a bite on her elbow. The poodle's owner, who was not around during the incident, removed his dog from the scene, but the poodle now faces a "vicious dog" hearing and could suffer the death penalty.

The neighborhood's beat cops are advising all dog owners to take a lesson from this incident and be sure their best friends are leashed on 24th Street. Otherwise, the citations will fly.

In another dog scoop, it seems that local pet owners are responding to com-

plaints about an excess of droppings in the parks.

Rec & Park caretaker Sam Nieto, who makes the rounds at Douglass Park, reported that he is encountering "80 percent less poop" these days. The reduction could be related to the fact that fed-up park users have begun approaching animal owners and offering them bags to use to pick up their mess. Most people realize its better to BYOB, though.

☎ ☎ ☎

WELL, THAT'S THIS MONTH'S POOP patrol. If you have any poop to report (what about the litter condition of the Dolores Street median strip?), leave me a message on the *Voice* answering machine: 821-3324. Or write me care of the paper at 1021 Sanchez St., 94114.

All tips will be held in strictest confidence until the next issue.

Bye, kids.

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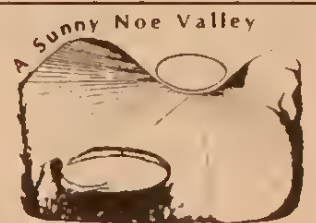
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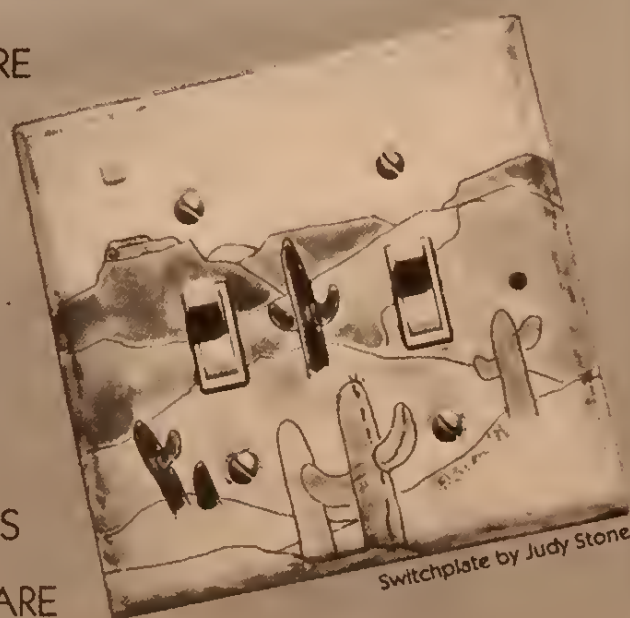
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Friends of Noe Valley

Contact: Steve Roseman
 Answering machine number: 285-3532
 Mailing Address: 4444 24th St.,
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 Meetings: Second Thursday of month, Noe
 Valley Library, 451 Jersey St., 7:30 p.m.

Diamond Heights Community Association

Contact: Robert Dockendorff, 826-3867
 Mailing Address: P.O. Box 31529,
 San Francisco, CA 94131
 Meetings: First Thursday of the month,
 7:30 p.m. Call for location.

Fairmount Neighborhood Association

Contact: Al Ujcic, 648-3545, or
 Susan Nutter, 285-8484
 Mailing Address: 78 Harper St.,
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 Meetings: Held periodically at Upper Noe
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 Mailing Address: 403 28th St.,
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 Meetings: Every other month, Upper Noe
 Recreation Center, Day and Sanchez streets,
 7:30 p.m. Call for specifics.

Duncan-Newhurg Association

Contact: Evelyn Martin, 826-6734,
 Janet Kennedy, 647-1844, or
 Deanna Mooney, 821-4045
 Mailing Address: 560 Duncan St.,
 San Francisco, CA 94131
 Meetings: Irregular

Glen Park Association

Contact: Joan Seiwald, 586-4448
 Mailing Address: Glen Park Association,
 P.O. Box 31292, San Francisco, CA 94131
 Meetings: Second Tuesday of month, Glen
 Park Recreation Center, Elk and Chenery,
 7:30 p.m.

The Noe Valley Merchants and Professionals Association

Contact: J.P. Gillen, 821-1515.
 Mailing Address: P.O. Box 146003,
 San Francisco, CA 94114
 Meetings: Last Wednesday of month, Bank
 of America, 24th and Castro, 9 a.m.

East & West of Castro Street Improvement Club

Contact: Paul Kantus, 647-3753
 Mailing Address: 492 Douglass St.,
 San Francisco, CA 94114
 Meetings: First Wednesday of month, Room
 108, James Lick School, 1220 Noe St., 8 p.m.

Dolores Heights Improvement Club

Contact: Bruce Muncil, 864-7847
 Mailing Address: 336 Cumberland St.,
 San Francisco, CA 94114
 Meetings: Irregular

Fair Oaks Neighbors

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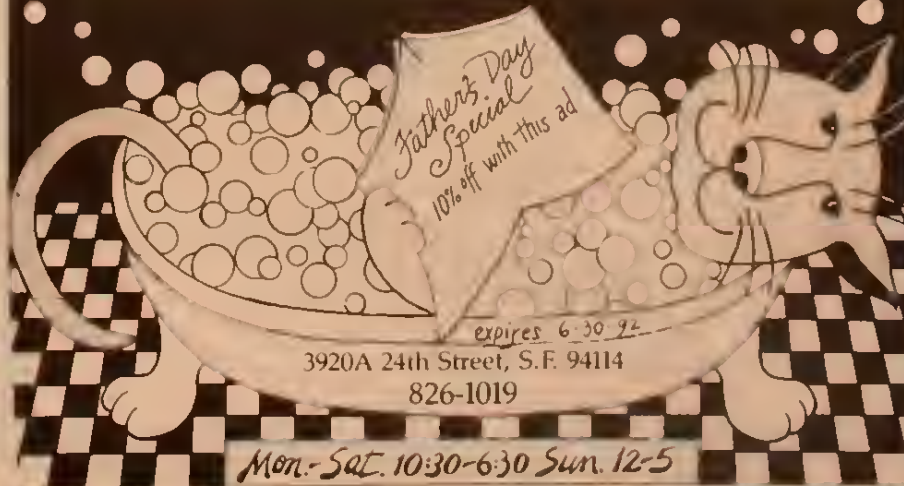


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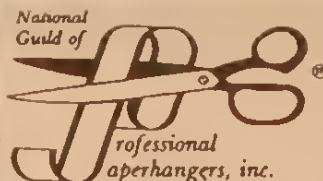


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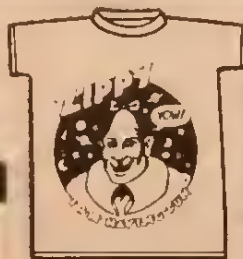
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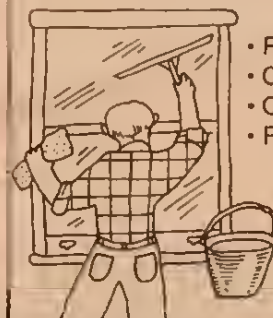
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Adult Fiction

• Set in a sleepy American town, *The End of the Pier*, by Martha Grimes, focuses on the murders of three local women and the sheriff's belief that they've convicted the wrong man.

• *An Intimation of Things Distnt* contains the collected fiction of Nella Larsen, an African-American woman writer who flourished during the Harlem renaissance.

• Prize-winning author Toni Morrison blends African-American history, legend, and urban life in *Jazz*, her new novel about a tragic murder.

• In *Paradise News*, by David Lodge, a man visiting Hawaii on business confronts some disconcerting self-revelations.

Adult Non-Fiction

• *Belonging to the Universe* is a collaboration between physicist Fritjof Capra and Benedictine monk David Steindl-Rast that explores the parallels in scientific and spiritual ways of thinking.

• *Freebies and More for Folks Over Fifty*, by researcher Linda Bowman, describes senior discounts and special opportunities in health, education, and travel.

• Filled with anecdotes, folklore, and facts, *The Secret Life of Food*, by Martin Elkort, is a rich survey of food from earliest times to the present.

• *Two Nations*, by political scientist Andrew Hacker, examines the divisions of color and class in 1990s' America.

• In *The War Against Women* writer Marilyn French documents the oppression of the female sex throughout history—politically, culturally, and by individual men.



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Children's Fiction

• Grace wins the part she wants in the school play, despite the obstacles set up by her classmates, in *Amazing Grace* by Mary Hoffman. (For ages 5–8.)

• In Debra Frasier's *On the Day You Were Born*, a new baby is welcomed into the community of people and animals who live together on planet Earth. (Ages 5–8.)

• Will Margery Mallard, the famous ducktective, find her missing friend, Dr. Albert Eiderstein, in the jungle? Find out in *Lost in the Amazon*, by Robert Quackenbush. (Ages 6–9.)

• Can Marty keep the wonderful dog Shiloh, or does he have to return him to his legal owner, even though the owner treats the dog cruelly? The problem is resolved in *Shiloh*, by Phyllis Reynolds Naylor. (Ages 10 and up.)

Children's Non-Fiction

• Would you like to take a photographic journey through your body? You can do that with Sandra Markle's *Outside and Inside You*. (Ages 6–10.)

• *The Discovery of the Americas*, by Betsy and Giulio Maestro, describes many people who came to or lived in North America before Columbus. (Ages 8–11.)

• Why are children sometimes mean to each other? Do you want to improve the quality of your friendships? There are lots of useful ideas on the subject in *When Kids Drive Kids Crazy: How to Get Along with Your Friends and Enemies*, by Eda LeShan. (Ages 10 and up.)

• *Julia Morgan, Architect of Dreams*, by Ginger Wadsworth, describes the life of the architect who designed Hearst Castle and many other well-known buildings. (Ages 10 and up.)



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KINDER CARE in Noe Valley, no. 380505754. Enriched learning and stimulating activities. Children develop social skills and good self-esteem in a hands-on home environment. Nutritious hot meals, park and library. Ages 2 to 5 years. Call Cathy, 826-3956.

NOE VALLEY SUMMER SUBLET for \$1,100. Charming, bright, two-bedroom flat with large deck and beautiful view. Available end of June through end of August, \$1,100 per month. Call 641-7361.

APARTMENT OR HOUSE WANTED. Stable, professional couple with two children seeks attractive three-bedroom flat or house with yard. Will trade light household maintenance or improvements and yard work for negotiable rent. Must be able to move in July 26-28. 221-3997 (home), 399-7212 (work).

GENERAL CARPENTRY: Stairs, decks, fences, doors, windows, remodels, repairs. No job too small. Twelve years' experience. Excellent rates and references. 821-9630.

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HOMELESS CAT needs nice family. Beautiful black-orange tortoise shell found three weeks ago. She's sweet, smart, special, and fully trained. Vet checked. Please give her a chance! Alice, 647-6914.

PUBLIC AUCTION: First Wednesday every month at 7 p.m., 1645 Market St./Gough at One-Eyed Jacks. Truly good deals to be had. Consignments accepted all month. Call Jim or Kris at 621-4390. Next auctions June 3, July 1, and Aug. 5.

CLASADS

SUMMER TAHOE GETAWAY! Beautiful Tahoe home in prestigious Incline Village. Hiking, golf, tennis, swimming, boating, and beaches! Twenty minutes to South Shore casinos and shows. Large kitchen, three bedrooms, two baths, steam/sauna room, living room with fireplace, two decks, garage, all appliances and laundry. Call now for cheap summer rates! 282-7955

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"I'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO TAP DANCE!" Join us! We specialize in beginning and returning tap dancers. Call 821-6403 for information and Noe Valley locations.

MOVING. I will move you anywhere in the Bay Area. Satisfaction guaranteed, cheap rates. 665-2928.

LOW-FEE THERAPY. The Rebis Project provides low-fee therapy for individuals, couples, families, and groups. We work with: ACA/co-dependence, self-esteem, depression, anxiety, relationship issues, sexual addiction, gay/lesbian issues, sexuality, living with threatening illnesses, grief work, and major life transitions. We are the therapy network's post-masters internship program; a non-profit organization. San Francisco, East Bay, Marin (510) 287-5767

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SAN FRANCISCO SUMMER. Noe Valley: two-bedroom, study, large, level south garden. June 21-July 5, \$800, or August, \$1,200. 648-4823.

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PET CARE PLUS. Loving pet care in your home. Excellent references, reasonable rates, bonded. Alice Mabry, 647-6914.

FINDING EASE IN FRIENDSHIPS. Join Carl A. Smith and Juliette Swenson for a "Special Look at Friendships." Saturday, June 20, 1992, 3-6 p.m. with a potluck at 6 p.m. Learn the four biggest steps to success and have fun examining your lifestyle and friendship style. Take a new look at yourself in how you relate to others. Examine various kinds of friendship: mutual interest, spiritual, romantic, etc. Carl is pastor of Noe Valley Ministry and Juliette has trained single people on how and where to meet others for five years. Cost: \$12 plus potluck dish; pre-registration necessary: call Carl, 285-7438, or Juliette, 647-5568.

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MULTI-DISCIPLINARY ARTISTS, sometime-artists, or wannabe's monthly jam session. Organizing a "show" and/or impromptu "do" time for people interested in visual art, writing, movement, theater, music to share finished or work-in-progress and/or collaborate on the spot for the process of it. No cost except for share of space rental. Contact Grace at 647-1407.

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EXPERIENCED GERMAN HOUSECLEANER looking for a few more clients. Reliable and thorough service. References available. Call Pia at 824-8218.

TECHNIQUES FOR PEOPLE WITH HIV. Learn relaxation, meditation, and other techniques which help the immune system and support the nervous system. Transcendental Meditation Center, 347 Dolores St., Room 209 668-1274

24-YEAR-OLD STUDENT speaks fluent German, Spanish, English, non-smoker with driver's license, looks for au pair vacancy in San Francisco or Berkeley for July until December 1992. Please contact Margarita Cortez, Wolfhager Strasse 187 3500 Kassel, or fax 0049-611-378078.

START THE SUMMER RIGHT! Treat yourself to gourmet vegetarian dining in your own home. Exciting, eclectic meals will be delivered to your doorstep. The menus are naturally low in fat, cholesterol and salt. Call now for your June menu. Gift certificates available. Jane, 826-2133.

TIRED OF RENTING? I'm a realtor helping first-time buyers like you find affordable housing in San Francisco. Call Kristin at Brown Bear Realty, 285-5700 or home, 550-1917.

TAROT CLASS for self-development and personal transformation with Esther Goldman. Begins June 21. Call 431-1066 for details.

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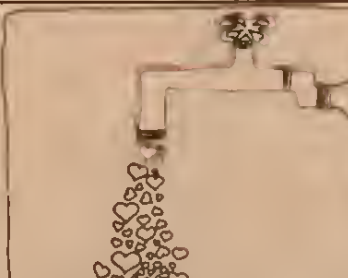
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EXTRA CASH. San Francisco Homestay Connection. Host a foreign student in your home and receive a compensation. Students from all over the world. All ages, 18 and over, and all lengths of stay. Professional and college students. For information phone 459-1265, fax 459-6056.

BECOME A PART OF THE WORLDWIDE non-violent movement. Join Food Not Bombs, 330-5030, or support us. Food Not Bombs, 3145 Geary, No. 12, S.F. 94118.

CARPENTER. Decks, stairs, kitchens, remodel, you name it. References available. Gregory, 648-8861.

BED AND BREAKFAST Noe Valley. 826-1158.

SHEEP DUNG ESTATES! An elegant getaway in the Anderson Valley hills near Boonville. Secluded cottage on an old sheep ranch. Dogs welcome. \$75 nightly, \$375 weekly. (707) 462-8745, unit 5285.

HOUSECLEANER. Experienced, fast, thorough, and careful. Local references, \$12 per hour. Expert garden care also available. Margaret, 824-0894

JUNE 6 & 7: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Dominican Guild garage sale. ICA cafeteria, 24th and Guerrero. Benefit Dominican sisters.

HOUSE/PET SITTER. Reliable. Reasonable. References. Kevin, (510) 651-6092.

PINOLI RANCH COUNTRY INN. Bed and breakfast. Private 300-acre ranch located in Anderson Valley. Quiet rooms, private baths. Gardens and more. Call or write: Pinoli Ranch Country Inn, 3280 Clark Road, Philo, CA 95466. Telephone: (707) 895-2550.

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How to Use Voice Class Ads

The rate for classified advertising in the *Noe Valley Voice* is 25¢ a word. Just type or print your copy, multiply the number of words by 25¢ (we trust you), enclose a check or money order for the full amount, and mail it to us by the 15th of the month preceding the month of issue.

It also would be a big help if you would indicate whether you are renewing an ad from a previous issue and, if so, include a copy of the published ad with your renewal.

Recession Discount: The *Voice* comes out 10 times a year (we don't publish an issue in January and August). If you decide to place the same class ad in 10 issues (a year's worth), you are entitled to a 10 percent discount. Just deduct 10 percent from the total amount due for 10 issues.

Class advertisers should keep in mind that only the first few words of the ad (not to exceed one line of type) will be highlighted in all caps.

Our address is 1021 Sanchez St., San Francisco, CA 94114. Note: The next edition of the *Voice*, our July/August double issue, will appear Wednesday, July 1, 1992, and will be on the streets for two months. Please mail your ad and check—made payable to the *Noe Valley Voice*—so that we receive it by June 15, 1992. Sorry, but we are unable to take phone or drop-in orders.

Receipts and tear sheets will be provided only if your order is accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope. □

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CALENDAR

JUNE 2: Alicia Nogueira leads ongoing Tuesday and Thursday YDGA CLASSES Noon-1 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 285-8104.

JUNE 2, 16 & 30: A STORY TIME for preschoolers unfolds at 10 am at the Noe Valley Library 451 Jersey St. 695-5095.

JUNE 3, 10 & 17: The Noe Valley Library's program of LAPSITS continues at 7 pm. 451 Jersey St. 695-5095.

JUNE 4-27: The campy MUSICAL "What Ever Happened to B.B. Jane?" spoofs the Belle Davis/Joan Crawford movie classic. Thurs.-Sat., 8 pm; Sun., 3 pm. The Victoria Theatre, 2961 16th St. 863-7576.

JUNE 4-27: PERFORMANCE artist Diviana Ingravallo's new multimedia work, "Naked Women," offers a journey through the female mind, body, and spirit. Thurs.-Sun., 8 pm. Theatre Rhinoceros, 2926 16th St. 861-5079.

JUNE 5 & 6: The Ruth Botchan DANCE Company performs works including "Mothersongs," dances to folk songs in Yiddish. 8-30 pm. Footwork, 3221 22nd St. 824-5044.

JUNE 5-7: The Kate Foley Company premieres "Totem," a performance of DANCE and projected images inspired by Native American culture. 8-30 pm. New Performance Gallery, 3153 17th St. 863-9834.

JUNE 6: TRADESWOMEN, INC. hosts a benefit luncheon featuring attorney Barbara Kate Repa, co-author of *Sexual Harassment on the Job*. Noon-3 pm. Trixie's Restaurant and Piano Bar, 2007 16th St. 821-7334.

JUNE 6: The Palestine Aid Society and the Middle East Children's Alliance sponsor the 4th annual PALESTINE WALKATHON, followed by a rally featuring the S.F. Mime Troupe. 10:30 am; rally, 1 pm. Dolores Park. 340-1573.



Local acoustic guitarist Dale Miller welcomes singer Kaeti D'Ghara to a "24th Street Blues Revue" at the Noe Valley Ministry on Friday, June 26.

JUNE 10: San Francisco's School of the Arts (SDTA) presents a spring PIAND RECITAL, with music ranging from classical to contemporary. 7:30 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 695-5720.

JUNE 11: Chitra Divakaruni reads from her new collection, *Black Candle: POEMS About Women from India, Pakistan and Bangladesh*. 8 pm. Did Wives' Tales Bookstore, 1009 Valencia St. 821-4675.

JUNE 12: Acoustic guitarist DUCK BAKER performs old-time, Celtic, and Appalachian music. 8 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 756-6857.

JUNE 12: A multicultural panel of BISEXUAL FEMINIST ACTIVISTS hold a roundtable discussion to celebrate the publication of *Closer to Home*. 7:30 pm. Modern Times Bookstore, 888 Valencia St. 282-9246.

JUNE 12 & 13: Footwork's "Local 7" concert series is a quarterly showcase for NEW DANCE and performance. 8-30 pm. 3221 22nd St. 824-5044.

JUNE 12-14: "Three Nights Only," to benefit Intersection for the Arts, presents three different all-star programs of MUSIC, performance, dance, and talk. 446 Valencia St. Call 626-ARTS for times and list of performers.

JUNE 13: The Noe Valley MUSIC SERIES hosts Stephen Kent on the didgeridoo, Beth Custer on clarinet, John Loose on multicultural percussion, and Ken Newby on wind instruments and synthesizers. 8-15 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 647-2272.

JUNE 13-JULY 5: GEOFF HOYLE brings his successful comedy *The Convict's Return* from Berkeley Rep to San Francisco's Stage Door Theatre. Wed.-Sat. 8 pm, Sun., 2 & 7 pm; Sat., June 20, 2 pm. 420 Mason St. (510) 486-0896.

JUNE 14: The CHOIRS of Bethany Methodist Church and the Noe Valley Ministry sing Faure's *Requiem* at the 10 am worship service. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 282-2317.

JUNE 14: IN DEFENSE OF ANIMALS holds its second annual "Festival for the Animals," featuring live music, celebrity emcees, speakers, and crafts and information booths. 11 am-7 pm. Civic Center Plaza. 453-9984.

JUNE 14: Carroll's Books presents BLOODSDAY, a noon-to-midnight celebration of James Joyce's *Ulysses*, featuring dramatic readings (6:30-10 pm), music, and refreshments. The event is also a benefit for Gaelforce (Aid for AIDS in Ireland). 1193 Church St. 647-3020.

JUNE 17: The Noe Valley Merchants and Professionals Association sponsors the first annual FRED METHNER DAY. Volunteers will sweep, weed, remove posters, paint out graffiti, wash sidewalks, and generally spill up the 24th Street and Castro Street commercial zone. 9 am-11 am. Meet at Panos' Restaurant, 4000 24th St. 821-1515.

JUNE 17: St. Paul's Church invites the neighborhood to fill its English Gothic cathedral with chanting, prayer, and moments of silence in honor of PEACE in the streets of San Francisco, at its monthly "Taizé" service. 7:30 pm. Church & 29th sts. 648-7538.

JUNE 18: Lyon-Martin Women's Health Services hosts a WORKSHOP on "Lesbians and Gay Men Parenting Together." 7-9:30 pm. 1748 Market St., Suite 201. 565-7674.

JUNE 19: Noe Valley MOVIES presents "Dance Trance Films," an all-over-the-map compilation from the 1935 Ballet Rouse and Busby Berkeley to Norm McLaren and post-modernist animators. 8 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 282-2317.

JUNE 19 & 20: FOOTWORK'S Bread & Butter Series features Scott Wells and Dancers. 8-30 pm. Dancer's Group, 3221 22nd St. 824-5044.

JUNE 20: Carl Smith, pastor of the Noe Valley Ministry, and Juliette Swenson lead a WORKSHOP/POTLUCK, "Finding Ease in Friendships." 3 pm; potluck 6 pm. 1042 Sanchez St. 285-7438 or 647-5568.

JUNE 20: Jazz pianist JESSICA WILLIAMS performs at the Noe Valley Music Series. 8-15 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 647-2272.

JUNE 21: Bring a dish to share (no meat, fish, or eggs) to the Integral Yoga Institute's Summer Solstice FAMILY DAY. 10 am-2 pm. 770 Dolores St. 821-1117.

JUNE 21: The Noe Valley Sunday Afternoons CLASSICAL CONCERT series presents the San Francisco Brass Quintet, performing works by Bernstein, Britten, Ives, Bach, and Debussy. 2 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 282-2317.

JUNE 22: Veteran interpreters of the beat scene, Ruth Weiss and Doug O'Conner, perform POETRY WITH JAZZ improvisation. 7 pm. 3300 Club, corner of 29th & Mission. 824-0835.



Sanchez Street resident Geoff Hoyle returns in *The Convict's Return*, playing June 13-July 5 at the Stage Door Theatre. PHOTO BY KEN FRIEDMAN



Scott Wells and Dancers will take it to the wall June 19-20, as part of Footwork's Bread and Butter Series.

JUNE 24 & 26: Noe Valley's SINGING RAINBOWS will perform their award-winning ecology song on the Sixth Annual Genesis Awards, televised on the Discovery channel Wednesday, June 24, 10 pm, and Friday, June 26, 4 pm. Candy Forest, 550-7752.

JUNE 25: San Francisco SAFE, Community Police On Patrol (CPDP), and the Senior Action Network invite neighborhood seniors to a CRIME PREVENTION workshop. 10:30 am. 30th Street Senior Center, 225 30th St. Call 673-SAFE for details.

JUNE 25: The San Francisco Greens' GREENTALKS speaker series concludes with Hazel Henderson discussing "Greening the Global Economy and Recycling Economics." 7:30-9:30 pm. New College, 777 Valencia St. 255-2940.

JUNE 25: Contributors to *SEXUAL HARASSMENT Women Speak Out* discuss the experiences that led them to participate in the book. 8 pm. Did Wives' Tales Bookstore, 1009 Valencia St. 821-4675.

JUNE 26: The "24th St. BLUES REVUE" includes ragtime/blues guitarist Dale Miller, rural bluesman Chester D., songstress Kaeti O'Ghara, and vocalist/harmonica player Jeb Brady. 8 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 821-6644.

JUNE 26 & 27: The San Francisco Community MUSIC CENTER registers new students, children through adults, in classes in voice and over 25 instruments. Fri., 3-7 pm; Sat., 10 am-1 pm. 544 Capp St. 647-6015.

JUNE 27: Discover who you are at Psychic Horizon's free PSYCHIC HEALING fair. 2-4 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 346-7906.

JUNE 27: British acoustic/electric guitarist ADRIAN LEGG performs at the Noe Valley Music Series. 8-15 pm. Noe Valley Music Series, 1021 Sanchez St. 647-2272.

JUNE 27 & 28: The San Francisco Quilters Guild exhibits a plethora of PATCHWORK in "San Francisco, City of Quilts." 10 am-5 pm. Concourse Exhibition Center, 8th St. at Brannan. 664-2434.

JUNE 28: The Rev. Janie Spahr leads a pre-Gay Freedom Day parade worship CELEBRATION. 10 am. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 282-2317.

JUNE 1992



Students from San Francisco's School of the Arts will present a spring piano recital at the Noe Valley Ministry on June 10. PHOTO BY BEVERLY THARP

JUNE 5-20: The Bedini Theatre Project presents Dale Wasserman's COMEDY/DRAMA adaptation of Ken Kesey's *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*. Fri. & Sat., 8 pm. Miz Brown's Cabaret Theatre, 2565 Mission St. 921-2769.

JUNE 6: Italian guitarist PEPPINO D'AGOSTINO strings up with German guitarist PETER FINGER and special guests, in a concert of solos, duos, and trios. 8-15 pm. Noe Valley Music Series, 1021 Sanchez St. 647-2272.

JUNE 6: Kairos Support for Caregivers offers a smorgasbord of nurturing activities, with one-hour WORKSHOPS including yoga, hypnosis, rolling, writing, and psychic cleansing. 9-30 am-4 pm. 114 Douglass St. Call 826-9001 for registration.

JUNE 6 & 7: The Dominican Guild holds its big GARAGE SALE in the I.C.A. cafeteria. 10 am-4 pm. 3625 24th St. 824-2052 or 648-7460.

JUNE 6, 13, 20 & 27: Precita Eyes Mural Arts Center offers walking tours of Mission District MURALS, with an introductory slide talk. 1:30-3 pm. 348 Precita Ave. 285-2287.

JUNE 7: "Footsteps for Friends" is a three-mile WALKATHON along the Marina Green to benefit Little Brothers, Friends of the Elderly. 10 am. Call 771-7957 for registration information.

JUNE 8: Walter Traverso provides the music for a lunch, DANCE, and celebration of June birthdays. Noon-3 pm. Diamond Senior Center, 117 Diamond St. 863-3507.

JUNE 9: FILMS for preschoolers, including *Picture for Harold's Room* and *Smile for Auntie*, will be shown at 10 and 11 am. Children 6 and older can see *From the Mixed-up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler* and *Oh Boy, Babies!* at 3 pm. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey St. 695-5095.

ZIPPY

"PRACTISING AT THE BAR"

Bill Griffith



The Scoop on CALENDAR

Please send calendar items before the 15th day of the month preceding the month of issue to the *Noe Valley Voice*, 1021 Sanchez St., San Francisco, CA 94114. Items are published on a space-available basis, with Noe Valley neighborhood events receiving priority. Note: The next issue of the *Voice* will be a double issue covering two months, July and August (we'll be on vacation until September.) It will hit the streets Wednesday, July 1. The deadline for calendar items is June 15, 1992.